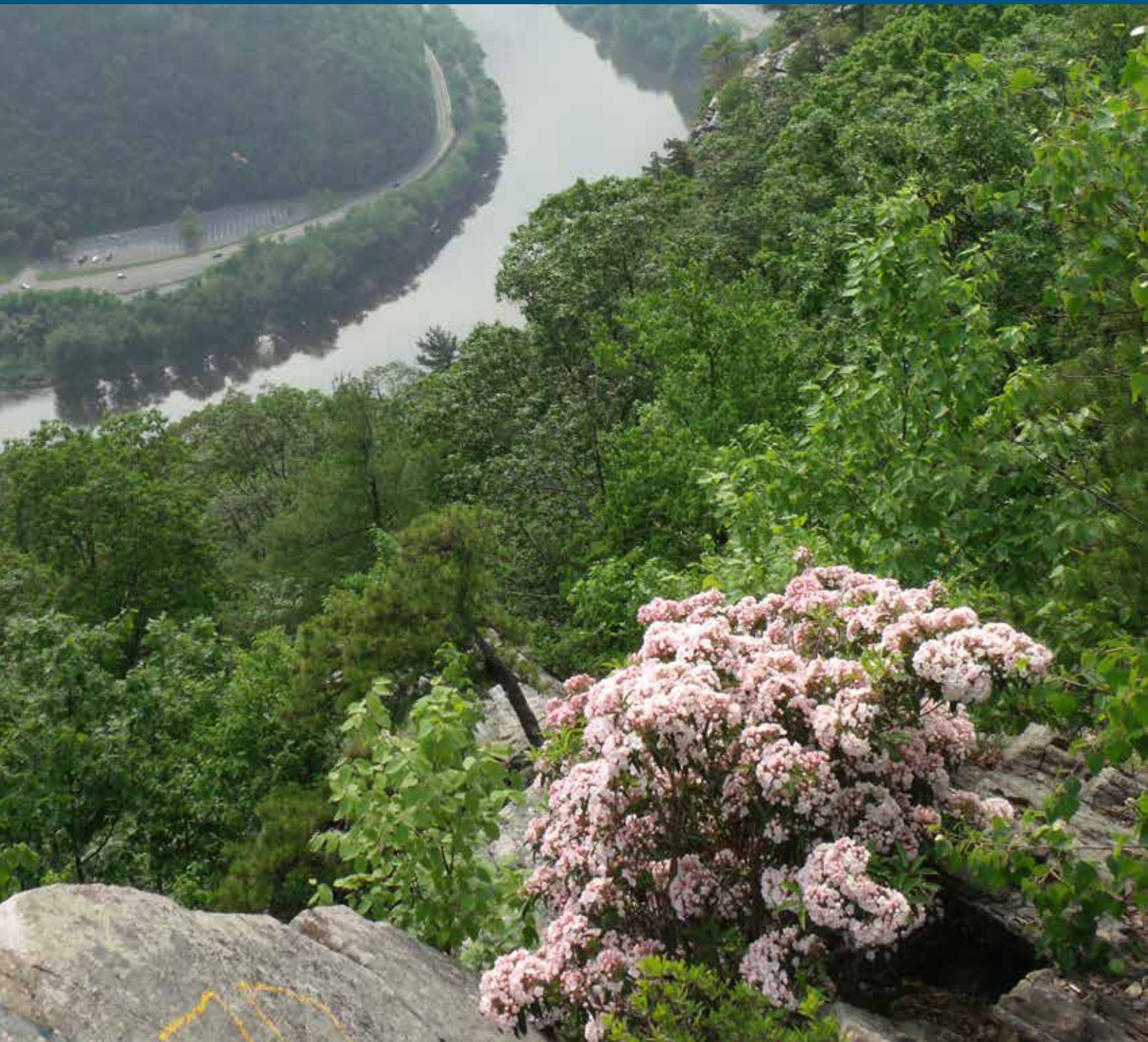




Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Long-Range Interpretive Plan

September 2015

Harpers Ferry Center
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Prepared by

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Harpers Ferry Center
Interpretive Planning

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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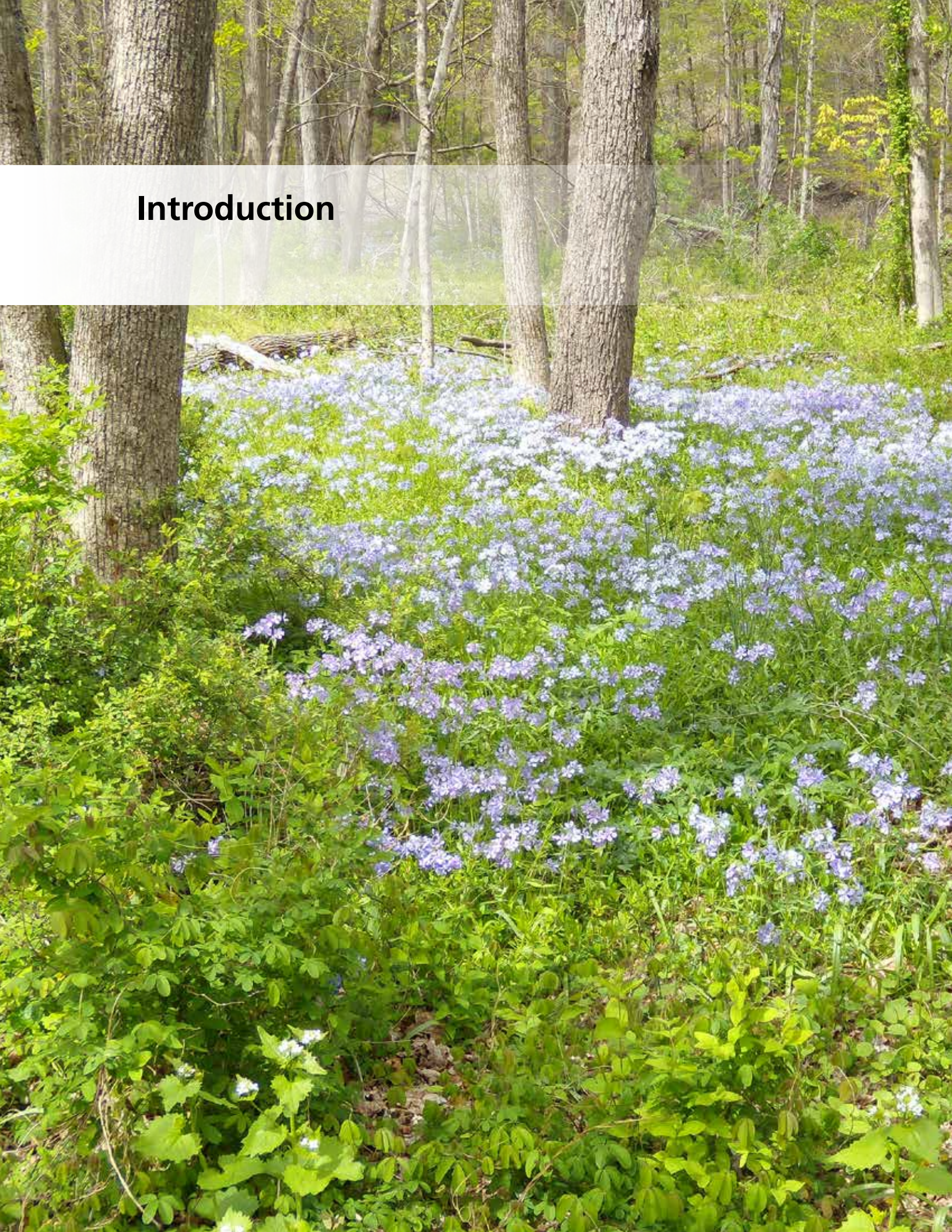
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Introduction



INTRODUCTION

About Interpretive Planning

This Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) outlines recommendations for future interpretive services, facilities, media, and community relationships. In the planning process, park staff, partners, and stakeholders work together to develop a comprehensive tool that outlines visitor experiences, education, and recreation opportunities through which audiences can connect to the resources and stories of a park. The goal is to promote park resource values through purposefully planned audience experiences.

This plan was built on the foundations established in development of the park's General Management Plan (GMP) (1987) and the Foundation Document (2014).



The plan recommends actions that should occur over the next several years. It identifies park themes, describes visitor experience goals, and recommends a wide variety of personal and non-personal interpretive services and community involvement activities that will best communicate the park purpose, significance, and themes. It satisfies the requirement for an interpretive plan for the park as established in Director's Order #6. (<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/Dorder6.html>)

An interdisciplinary team of National Park Service (NPS) staff, stakeholders, and partners met in January, 2014 to review and refine the park's 2014 Foundation Document: purpose, significance, and interpretive themes. The group vetted the themes for relevance, bias, and current scholarship. A Recommendations Workshop was held in April 2014 with staff and key stakeholders, and the Action Plan was created in October, 2014 from the recommendations developed at that meeting. Park staff conducted additional meetings to further refine content and recommendations.



Winter holds its own beauty and fascination for park visitors.





Recommendations about visitor experience, media, services, and programming will be updated at least annually and as staffing, funding, technology, or resource conditions change. Further planning may be done and design documents created to implement some of the goals and recommendations in this plan.

Site Description

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area protects 40 miles of the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River and more than 70,000 acres of valley along the river's banks in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Located less than two hours from New York City, the park provides a counterpoint to much of the developed world that surrounds it—a “gap in the urban map.”

Site Background

Millions of years of uplift, erosion, and glacial activity gave us the water gap, lakes, streams that flow through hemlock- and rhododendron-laced ravines, and the waterfalls that pour off the Pocono Plateau. The crisp, cool air around the waterfalls is refreshing, especially in summer.

In the 1800s resorts flourished throughout the region where city dwellers arrived by carriage or rail, often spending the entire summer away from the urban heat. The water gap became a scenic wonder for fashionable travelers.

Today the river and its valley remain a major vacation haven. Although transportation and the lengths of stay may have changed, many who remember family trips, summer camp, or their honeymoon return to reminisce at a favorite site in the park. In 1965 Congress established Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to preserve this natural and historic area.

Detailed descriptions of park features may be found in the General Management Plan: <http://www.nps.gov/dewa/parkmgmt/general-mgt-plan.htm>.

What is distinctive about the gap is the beauty of the landscape. Here the river twists in a tight “S” curve through the Kittatinny Ridge. The result is breathtaking, so much so that this area became a resort in the 19th century. Large hotels sprang up and catered to a clientele of businessmen and their families. People remarked on the healthy quality of the air and the coolness of the breezes while cities simmered in the summer heat. Today most of the large hotels are gone and people usually come here for a day or two rather than a month or more. Yet the air is just as invigorating and the views just as spectacular as they ever were. 2001 Facility Management Report



Pileated woodpecker

Legislation

As a result of state and local interest, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area was authorized by Public Law 89-158, September 1, 1965, 89th Congress H.R. 89.

The 1965 legislation refers to Tocks Island Dam and Reservoir. Building the dam was later de-authorized by Congress. However, the park authorized by this legislation was formed and is named Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

“Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to further the purposes of the joint resolution approved September 27, 1961 (re Delaware River Basin compact; 75 Stat. 688), and to provide in a manner coordinated with the other purposes of the Tocks Island Reservoir project, for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of the proposed Tocks Island Reservoir and lands adjacent thereto by the people of the United States and for preservation of the scenic, scientific and historic features contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized, as herein provided, to establish and administer the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, hereinafter referred to as the ‘area’, as part of the Tocks Island Reservoir project, hereinafter referred to as ‘the project’.”

See the appendix for full text of the legislation.



Part I: Foundation for Planning



FOUNDATION FOR PLANNING

The foundation for planning is derived from legislation and provides basic guidance for planning and management decisions. Park purpose, significance statements, and interpretive themes remain relatively stable over time. Together, they establish an organizational baseline for planning and management efforts.

Park Purpose

Park purpose statements describe why an area was set aside (by Congress or the President) and what specific purposes exist for that park. Purpose statements are derived from legislation, legislative history, public participation, and public rule-making. The following statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park and the river.

“The purpose of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River is to preserve the natural, culture, and scenic resources and values of the Delaware River valley and provide opportunities for resource-based recreation, education, and enjoyment in close proximity to the most densely populated region of the nation.”

Park Significance

These statements describe a site’s national significance. They describe a National Park System unit’s distinctive natural, cultural, and recreational resources and values that are the specific rationale for national recognition of the site.

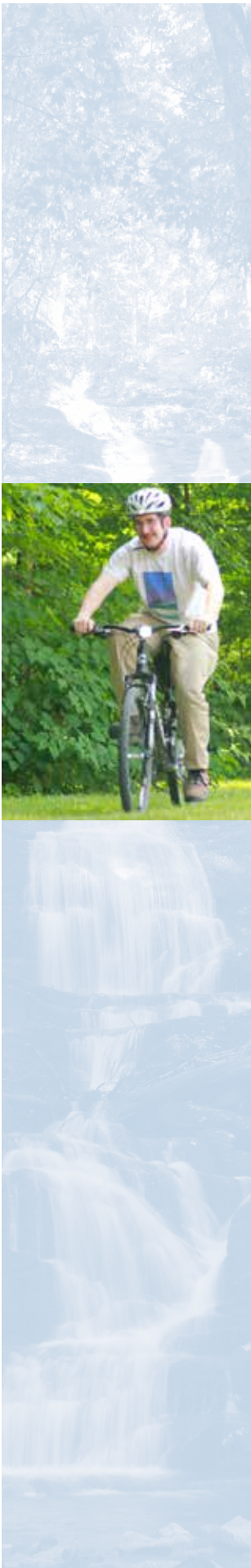
The 2014 Foundation Document recognizes that the site is nationally significant for the following reasons:

1. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area’s outstanding scenery, interwoven with cultural landscapes and historic sites, is defined by the composition of natural landscapes that range from the cliffs of the Pocono Escarpment and Kittatinny Ridge to the broader floodplain valley and include



The Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River offers relatively gentle, flat water for water activities.





dramatic bends in the Delaware River and the iconic Delaware Water Gap.

2. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is the keystone of an extensive network of local, state, and federally protected natural landscapes that preserves and connects essential habitat for the sustained health and adaptability of native plant and animal communities.
3. The complex mosaic of landforms and aquatic habitats within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area supports an exceptional concentration and diversity of native plant and animal communities, including ecological communities and species that are rare, threatened, or endangered.
4. The Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River is a vital component of and contributes substantially to the exceptional ecological integrity of the Delaware River, the longest undammed river within the eastern United States.
5. Visitors to the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area have opportunities to immerse themselves in an environment of solitude, tranquil natural landscapes, striking river valley scenery, and a substantially undeveloped river corridor that are unmatched among large rivers in the most densely populated region of the United States.
6. Documenting approximately 11,000 years of human use and adaptation, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area contains the most well-preserved concentration and intact diversity of known archeological sites and artifacts in the northeastern United States, including the Minisink National Historic Landmark District, with ongoing significance to American Indian tribes.
7. The variety of 18th through 20th century historic structures at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area demonstrates the transition from the Colonial frontier to an agrarian-based economy to the early 20th century when the area became a center of working-class leisure in the wake of the industrial revolution.
8. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area offers easily obtainable opportunities for diverse, year-round, outdoor recreation and leisure to residents of major Northeast urban centers; this need was specifically recognized in the park's legislative history.
9. The effort to preserve a free-flowing Delaware River, rather than construct the Tocks Island Dam within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, contributed to the 20th century "grass-roots" environmental movement that led to Earth Day and passage of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.



The waterfalls at George W. Childs Park are a popular destination for visitors.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River.

The Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River and Tributaries.

The Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River and its tributaries are a defining attribute of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. A combination of exceptionally high water quality, fully functioning floodplains, excellent aquatic and riparian habitats, and the absence of dams on the main stem gives rise to a diverse array of species and a productive, complex food web with strong ecological integrity. As an integral part of the entire Delaware River system, this section of the river provides a migration corridor, critical habitat, and a stronghold for native migratory fish species such as American shad and American eel. In addition, the high-quality water of the main stem river provides additional beneficial habitat and a movement corridor for fish species that primarily inhabit tributaries such as native brook trout and at least 52 other species of fish. Miles of mostly undisturbed shoreline, high-quality water, and natural landscapes create opportunities for an exceptional visitor experience.

Evidence of Changing Land Use, Settlement Patterns, and Lifeways.

The Middle Delaware river valley is full of examples of the changing land use, settlement patterns, and lifeways of the European settlement starting with the Dutch and English settlers who arrived in the region beginning around 1650





Easter Tiger Swallowtail

and stretching through the formation of the park in 1965. Throughout the valley examples of landscapes, structures, and archeological resources illustrate the changes in use and economic drivers in the region throughout the centuries. Some of the evidence of land use changes and settlements include agricultural landscapes and associated buildings, ruins of water-powered mills, Delaware River-based resorts and camps, historic villages, and the Old Mine Road Historic District that preserves one of the oldest commercial roadways in the northeastern United States.

Rich Archeological Heritage.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area has nearly 500 documented American Indian archeological sites, of which more than 100 are currently considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. This complex of American Indian sites is the best preserved in the northeastern United States, making it a high-value research area for archeologists and geoscientists to study the rich archeological heritage of the park.

Mosaic of Terrestrial and Wetland Habitats.

The varied topography, geology, hydrology, and land use history of the park gives rise to a rich mosaic of terrestrial and wetland habitats within the park. Large unbroken tracts of forest dominated by native oaks, hickories, and pines extend along the upper elevations of the Kittatinny Ridge and Pocono Plateau. Forests dominated by various mixtures of eastern hemlock, white pine, maple, birch, ash, sycamore, and other native hardwoods predominate throughout the mid- to lower elevations. Interspersed within the dominant forests are distinct areas of dry cactus barrens, talus slopes, various grasslands and shrub lands, acidic and calcareous wetlands, ephemeral ponds, riparian zones, and floodplains. This mosaic of connected terrestrial and wetland habitats supports a high diversity of native species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates, including numerous rare, threatened, and endangered species. The large tracts of undisturbed forests, wetlands, riparian zones, and floodplains reduce flood damage downstream of the park.

Striking Geological Features.

The most iconic feature in the park is its namesake, the Delaware Water Gap. Other prominent geologic landforms include the Pocono Plateau, Kittatinny Ridge, and the Walpack Bend. Other geologic features within the park include talus slopes, glacial features, cave and karst features, dramatic waterfalls, alluvial fans, and paleontological resources. These striking geological features define the park's landscape, influence its ecology, and shape historic patterns of human settlement.

Sustainable Access to High-quality Recreation Opportunities.

The river and surrounding landscape support a wide variety of opportunities to enjoy the natural and cultural resources of the park during all four seasons. High-quality outdoor recreational opportunities include canoeing, swimming, hiking, hunting, fishing, scenic driving, bird watching, and cross-country skiing. The remoteness found in some areas of the park offers the chance to experience solitude, while other areas provide social recreational settings.

Stunning Scenic Resources and Distinct Aesthetic Values.

The Middle Delaware River is framed by the mountains of the Kittatinny Ridge in New Jersey and the cliffs of Pocono Plateau in Pennsylvania. The diverse floodplain includes islands, woodlands, tributary crossings, grassland, and agricultural fields. The adjoining landscape includes steep hemlock- and rhododendron-lined ravines and hardwood forests cut through by streams and waterfalls. Visitors are immersed in the forested and pastoral characters of the area by day and dark skies by night. The nuances of the changing seasons, such as spring wildflowers, summer greenery, fall foliage, and winter frost, provide a backdrop for visitors to enjoy the stunning scenic resources and striking aesthetic values.

Other Important Resources and Values

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River:

Landscape-scale Habitat Connectivity.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is the keystone of an extensive network of local, state, and federally protected natural landscapes that preserves and connects essential habitat for the sustained health and adaptability of plant and animal communities. Many populations of plants and animals are more stable and secure because they can inhabit an unfragmented landscape. The ecological integrity of the river and the park is dependent on the protected and managed landscapes in the 3,500-square-mile Delaware River watershed. Landscape-scale habitat connectivity is not only essential to present-day ecosystems, but also provides opportunities for climate change adaptation and sustainable natural communities into the future.

Management Through Collaboration.

Collaboration and cooperation with partners; volunteers; and state, local, and federal agencies, to achieve common goals allow all stakeholders to become better stewards of resources. Collaborative management of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area provides many essential services such as public safety, interpretation, education, art appreciation, and facility maintenance.





Summer weekends and during special events, crafters demonstrate life skills of the 1800s in Millbrook Village.

The NPS Cultural Resource Management program addresses standards and requirements for research, planning, and stewardship of cultural resources for: archeological resources, museum objects, ethnographic resources, cultural landscapes, and historic and prehistoric structures. For more information, see Director's Orders #28 <http://www.nps.gov/policy/Dorders/Dorder28.html>.

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are organizational tools. They provide a conceptual framework for visitor experience planning and programming. Interpretive themes are derived from and capture the essence of park purpose, park significance, resources, and values. Themes can help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may be unconnected to an event, time, or place. They go beyond simple descriptions or recitations of fact; they reflect the context and effects of events or processes in order to foster opportunities for visitors to experience and consider the meanings, concepts, and values represented by park resources.

While themes are important as a framework to help guide interpretation and management decisions, they are not necessarily intended for public use. They serve to focus the development of visitor experience, services, and programming.

A Landscape of Change:

Predestined by distinctive geography, the Middle Delaware River Valley is a stage for playing out the changing relationship between people and this American landscape over time.

This interpretive theme encompasses the multiple layers of human history that have converged at what is now the national recreation area.

A Gap in the Urban Map:

Precariously situated within the most densely populated region of the United States, the middle Delaware River Valley, with its iconic landforms and uncommon ecological integrity, is part of an extensive network of protected landscapes contributing to the sustained health of natural processes.

This interpretive theme provides for the many values associated with the natural environment.

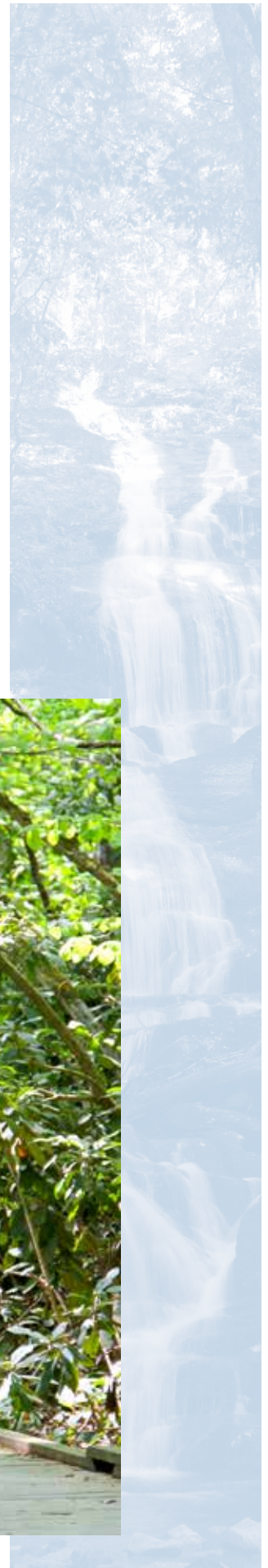
A Frontier of Change:

The diversity and integrity of cultural resources at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area offers exceptional opportunities to examine changing human communities and values along societal frontiers.

This third theme explores the complex interface between the natural and cultural history themes above.

Note:

An Interpretive Theme Matrix is included in the appendix. The theme matrix describes in more detail the theme statements, examples of concepts that may be included within each theme, and examples of topics and stories that could be used to illustrate the themes.



Roving trails and other high visitor use areas is an important way to make contacts with visitors.

A photograph of a waterfall in a forest. The waterfall is a single, narrow stream of water falling from a rocky ledge. The surrounding area is covered in dense green foliage, including ferns and moss. The water is white and frothy as it falls. The background shows more trees and a forest floor covered in fallen leaves.

Part II: Envisioning the Future

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

This section includes management goals, describes desired visitor experiences, identifies targeted audiences, and lists the challenges and issues that affect visitor experience. These are all things that help guide direction and are useful to take into consideration when envisioning the future.

National Park Service Goals

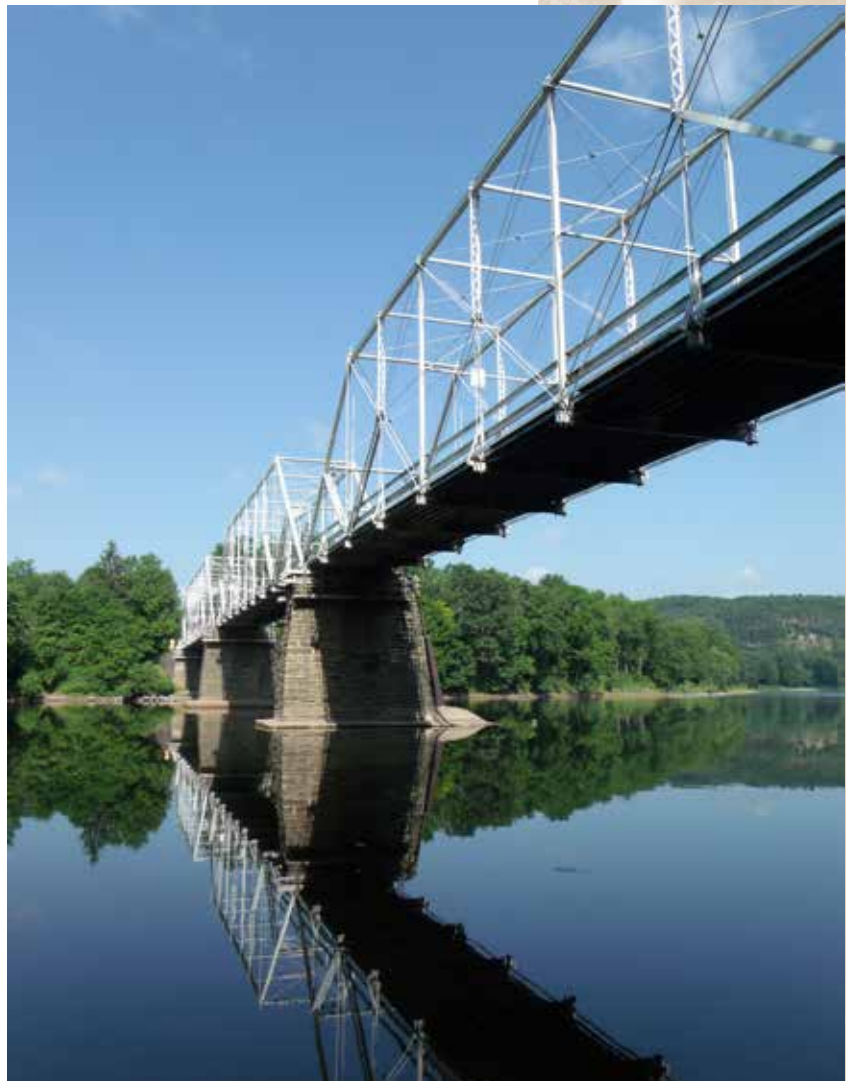
The NPS strategy, A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement (2014 edition), identifies a framework for management goals:

- Connecting People to Parks: Helping communities protect what is special to them, highlighting their history, and retaining or rebuilding their economic and environmental sustainability.
- Advancing the Education Mission: Strengthening the NPS role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.
- Preserving America's Special Places: Act as a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.
- Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence: Adapting to the changing needs of visitors, communities, and partners; encouraging organizational innovation; and giving employees the chance to reach their full potential.

Desired Visitor Experiences

The General Management Plan (1987) provides this goal for desired visitor experience:

“The goal for visitor use at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area will be to provide the widest possible range of recreational opportunities without allowing natural or cultural resources to be degraded as a result. Activities will be dispersed throughout the national recreation area to minimize conflicts between user groups. People will have a chance to appreciate the



The Dingmans Bridge is one of the last remaining privately owned bridges.



Dutchmans breeches are a common wildflower.

aesthetic, educational, and inspirational qualities of the resources, as well as enjoy themselves. Opportunities for hunting and fishing will continue. NPS programs will be aimed at both individuals and groups. Programs will also be designed to address the needs of non-English-speaking visitors and individuals with physical or mental limitations, thus ensuring that all visitors have an opportunity to enjoy the recreation area.”

During the workshops January, April, and October, 2014, the interdisciplinary planning team articulated the following three Visitor Experience Goals. These goals were used to guide the recommendations identified later in this document.

Diverse audiences will have opportunities to experience the park’s natural, cultural, and recreational resources, landscapes, and stories in the following ways:

1. Access multiple venues for engagement, enjoyment, and finding inspiration.
2. Find relevance and personal connection within a context of multiple points of view.
3. Practice stewardship within and beyond park boundaries.

This Long-Range Interpretive Plan explores ways to enhance, expand, and improve visitor experiences throughout the park. Specifically, this plan addresses ways that interpreters and interpretive media can function to help visitors **do** meaningful activities, **learn** key messages about the site, **feel** an emotional connection to this special place, and **behave** differently as a result of visiting the site.

The visitor experience goals include opportunities appropriate for visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities as they visit Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Experiential Opportunities

The scale of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area provides space for many, many people to have concurrent and repeat short-term experiences



at specific sites. In this way, the park serves as a large-scale “city park.” At the same time, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area provides a stage for landscape-scale recreation on an inter-generational timeframe. Some of the experiences available include:

- Bicycling
- “Collecting” visits to multiple waterfalls
- Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing
- Day hiking
- Descendants visiting home sites and gravesites of their ancestors
- Discovering picturesque remnant home sites
- Discovering stone walls
- Driving across the historic Dingmans Toll Bridge
- Exploring cultural landscapes
- Golfing at historic Cliff Park
- Hunting, fishing, and hiking across multiple terrains
- Immersing in the four seasons
- Learning experiences on the scale of multiple days, including Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC), Mohican Outdoor Center (MOC), and Peters Valley School of Craft
- Observing spring ephemerals
- Paddling on day-long multi-day canoe trips
- Photography
- Riding the Steamtown National Historic Site train ride from Scranton to Delaware Water Gap
- Rock climbing
- Sightings of rare, threatened, and endangered species
- Strolling along the boardwalk at Dingmans Falls
- Swimming and picnicking
- Taking a picture at the 209 park entrance signs
- Through-hiking along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail



Throughout the park, historic remnants help tell the cultural story of the Delaware River valley.



Each spring, approximately 100 volunteers spend the morning clearing trash from along River Road in Pennsylvania.

- Touring Millbrook Village
- Using the McDade Recreational Trail for fitness and wellness activities
- Viewing grand scenic vistas
- Viewing native plant species
- Viewing scenery on 209, Old Mine Road, River Road, and other park roads.
- Visiting individual waterfalls
- Watching eagles and other wildlife

Knowledge Opportunities

Visitors of all ages and abilities should have opportunities to:

- Learn about the composition of natural landscapes.
- Appreciate the complex mosaic of habitats that support an exceptional concentration of diverse plant and animal species.
- Discover the numerous opportunities to immerse themselves in the landscape.
- Gain insight into the transition from the Colonial frontier in the 18th century to an agrarian-based economy to the early 20th century leisure era.
- Gain valuable life knowledge about personal responsibility and personal safety in the natural world.
- Realize the diversity of historic and cultural sites within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.
- Recognize the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River as a vital component to the exceptional ecological integrity of the Delaware River.
- Understand how the Tocks Island Dam controversy contributed to the 20th century “grass roots” environmental movement.

- Understand the value of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as part of a network of protected landscapes that preserve essential habitat for the sustained health of native plant and animal communities.

Emotional Opportunities

Visitors of all ages and abilities should have opportunities to:

- Appreciate the natural beauty, quiet, nature sounds, and solitude of the river corridor.
- Feel a sense of awe, wonder, and renewed appreciation for an essential, extraordinary, life-giving force we often take for granted: water.
- Have fun! Enjoy the rippling river, the sunshine and the clouds, the laughter of friends, or the stillness of a great blue heron hiding along the shore.

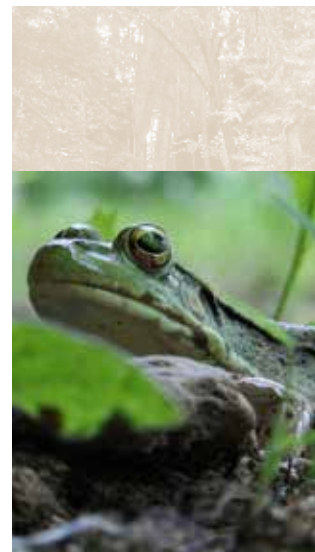
Behavioral Opportunities

Visitors of all ages and abilities should find inspiration and guidance to:

- Become volunteers, stewards, and advocates for the park.
- Examine and improve their individual roles and responsibilities as consumers of water resources within the Delaware River watershed.
- Expand their knowledge of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and its variety of natural and cultural offerings.
- Introduce the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to family and friends.
- Make repeat visits to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.
- Recognize that they are in a National Park and treat the landscape with respect.
- Recreate in a safe and appropriate manner.



Interpreters provide a variety of talks, walks, and other programs.





Boating is a popular recreational activity on the Delaware River.

Challenges and Issues Affecting Interpretation

- The current trend of collaborative and audience-centered experience requires interpreters to be thoughtful, creative, skillful, and resourceful in order to facilitate connections between the park's values and resources, and 21st century audiences.
- Interpreters must strive to provide opportunities for audiences to form meaningful connections with the park's fundamental resources and values. This requires an understanding of various complex components including resource knowledge, regulation awareness, audience expectations and visitor patterns, and internal and external dynamic conditions.
- Visitors may not have necessary preparedness skills to safely recreate in the park. This may be a result of generations not exposed to unstructured outdoor experiences, as well as current trends of relying on technology for information and assistance.
- The range of physical resources and their associated stories is a challenge as well as an opportunity for interpretation. Packaging of park experiences is important as iconic landforms and cultural landscapes are numerous but dispersed.
- Greater competition for the peoples' time will continue to affect audience decisions about making a physical (or virtual) trip to a park. Staff will need to find ways to work with and through community and other partner organizations to demonstrate value added to their lives for the public to spend their valuable free time at a park.
- Current audiences have different expectations and needs and they expect different types of media and technology to understand and connect with park resources. Attention spans are shorter. Park staff will need to increase external awareness and adapt to societal, technological, and programmatic changes.
- Limited staff and program funding requires that the park rethink its

approaches and operations for operational and fiscal sustainability. This means taking a hard look and making difficult decisions such as ending some traditional services, hours, practices, and programs. It means finding creative ways to support desired services and programming by leveraging non-traditional sources for funding and staffing. Staff must be intentional and data-driven in making decisions about programs and media.

- It is a challenge for all park work groups to balance the expectations of various audiences with resource management needs. There is some conflict between the expectations of more “traditional” park users who visit in small groups, and the expectations of large-volume groups who prefer to have broader boundaries to their recreation.

Three Current Audience Groups

Current user groups of the park can be described as structured, unstructured, and road travelers.

Structured

Many people travel to a specific site for a specific experience. They may have visited the park at a previous time, or are traveling with someone who has. Many choose to visit favorite sites repeatedly over the years. These visitors may be continuing family vacation traditions.

On weekends, many people travel to the park from nearby urban areas. Within this audience may be extended families, and young adults seeking opportunities for informal, day-long, picnic-style gatherings.

This audience group uses park facilities and media to a great extent. The infrastructure of parking lots, picnic areas, and campgrounds is integral to their activities. Interpretive media and programs which may be used include publications, interior and exterior exhibits, websites, and social media.

Unstructured

Members of this audience group may choose to avoid developed areas and crowds of people. This may bring them to less-visited areas of the park, during less-visited times of year.

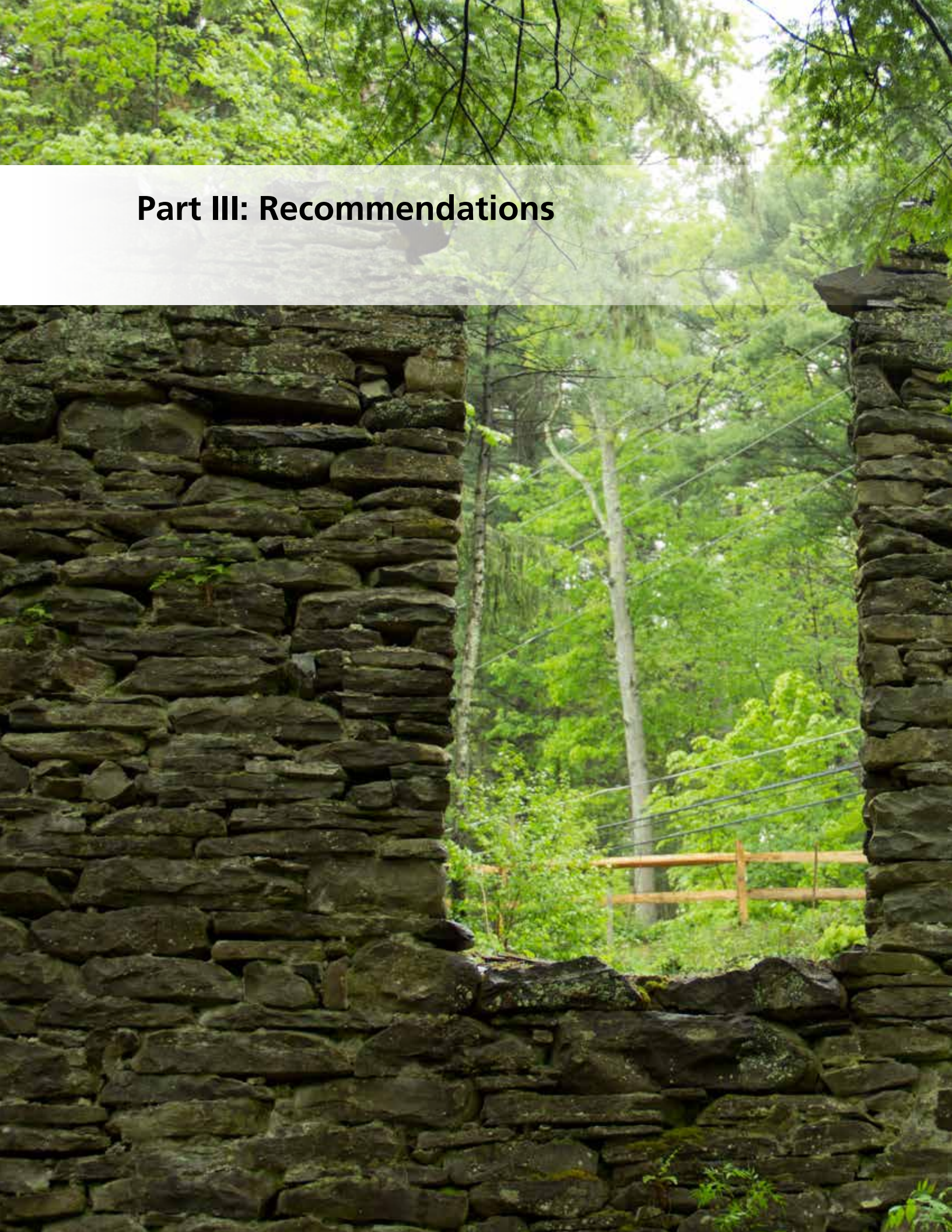
Experienced recreationists may have limited interactions with facilities, interpretive exhibits, and park personnel. Current conditions and regulations may have been researched prior to their visit through NPS and/or non-NPS internet and social media sites.

Road Travelers

U.S. 209 travels through the length of the park on the Pennsylvania side and Old Mine Road traverses the park on the New Jersey side. These strategically-located scenic routes bring many visitors to and through the park. Many visitors may not know they are in a unit of the National Park System, but yet are aware of the superior scenery. For these park users, wayfinding and park identification signs can serve as an invitation into off-highway experiences.



Part III: Recommendations



RECOMMENDATIONS

In collaboration with stakeholders, the park has developed a set of interpretive recommendations which are designed to be realistic, achievable, and sustainable. The recommendations are grounded in goals, connect to park themes, and will move the park toward its future vision:

Learners of all ages will use the park as a classroom for life-long learning experiences. In recognition that every interaction is a teachable moment, we will use technology to help establish relevance and reach broader audiences for the park and the NPS. Every program, every wayside, every partnership designation, and every personal interaction will personify and convey the NPS mission and values. Vision 2030; 2014

Three Areas of Interpretive Focus

Three areas of focus for interpretive recommendations have been identified, which include visitor experience, interpretation/education, and partnerships/volunteers.

Each area of focus involves one or more specific audiences. While all people are welcome and invited to participate, some audiences are targeted for focused attention because they may be inadequately served by existing interpretation, need different strategies for engagement, or require specific methods to open communications and sustain relationships.

Within the three areas of interpretive focus, target audiences are identified, and the Focus of Work is articulated. This foundation guided the development and prioritization of specific recommendations.



The fertile floodplain along the river was what first attracted farmers to the area; today visitors get a sense of that historic landscape through the agricultural lease program.





The park is a popular destination in any kind of weather.

Visitor Experience

Audiences:

- Residents in counties that border the park: Monroe, Pike, Northampton counties in Pennsylvania and Sussex and Warren counties in New Jersey.
- Recreational users of all abilities.

Focus of Work:

- Increase awareness of the park, its resources, and recreational opportunities to residents in counties that border the park.
- Increase awareness of the park, its resources, and recreational opportunities through electronic platforms.
- Increase visitor safety.
- Increase accessible recreational opportunities for visitors with physical disabilities.

Interpretation/Education

Audiences:

- Educators of 4th – 6th grade Title I schools
- Graduating Class of 2016
- All visitors
- Visitors to Millbrook Village

Focus of Work:

- Work through educators of 4th – 6th grade Title I schools to promote the park as a place of learning.
- Provide in-depth park experiences for youth.
- Shift focus of public interpretive programming to include experiences that are active, engaging, and promote dialogue.
- Enhance in-park, non-personal media and visitor contact areas.
- Create a Visitor Experience plan for Millbrook Village.

Partnerships/Volunteers

- Audience: Partners and Volunteers

Focus of Work:

- Strengthen partnerships to make them more efficient and effective.
- Strengthen and refocus volunteer program based on park priorities.

Action Plan

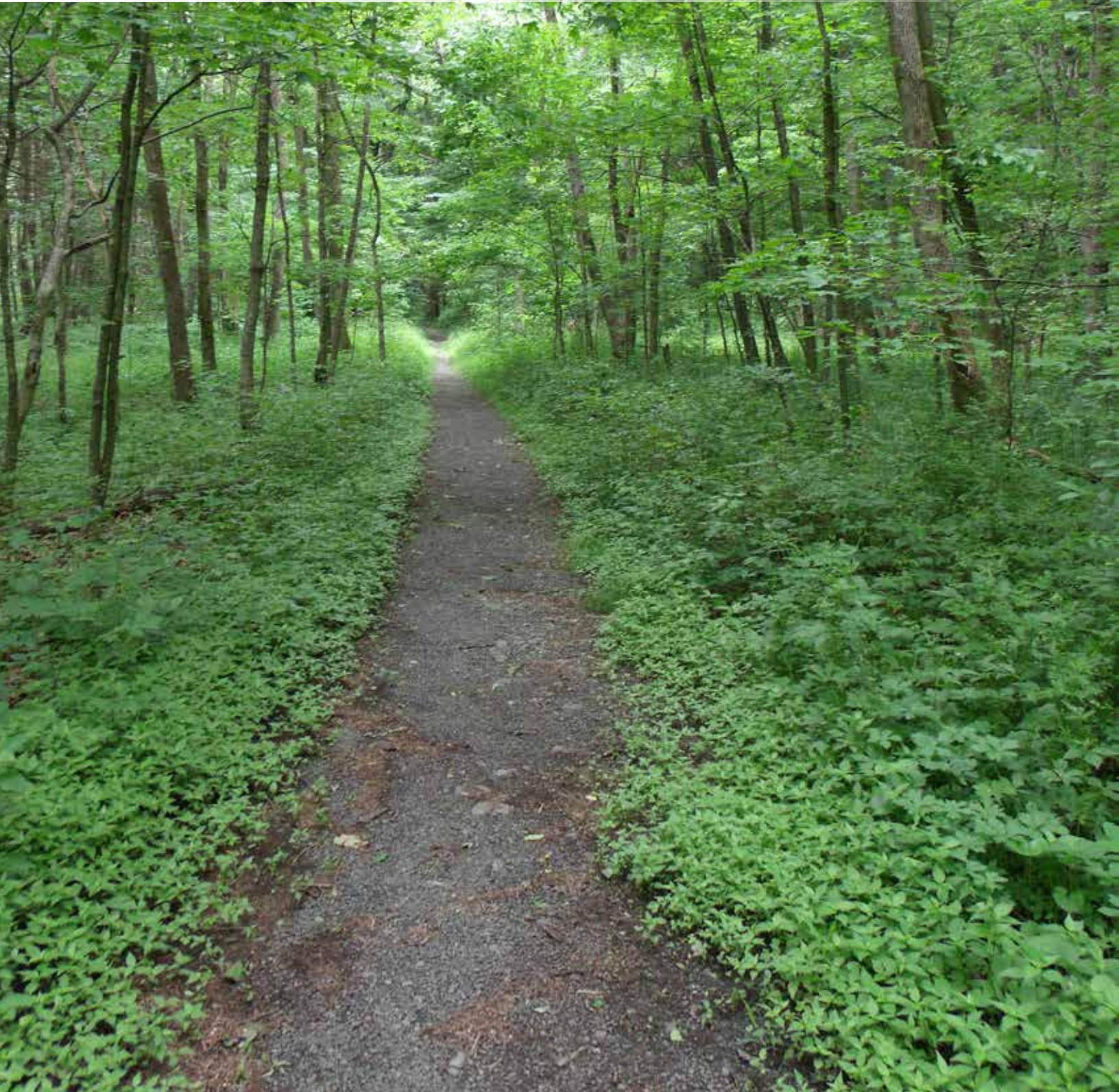
Action items have been developed which outline the specific tasks required to accomplish each goal. These actions will be revisited periodically (at least annually) and prioritized based on changing circumstances, opportunities, operational need, funding, budget availability, and other factors. Actions that are not completed in the year identified will be reevaluated as a future action. The actions appear in the Action Plan tables contained in the Appendix 1 of this report.



Fishing is an activity enjoyed by all ages.



Appendix



Appendix 1 – Action Plan

This plan shows the actions that will be taken to implement the recommendations in the Long Range Interpretive Plan. It should be updated annually and become the basis for annual planning and accountability within the division.

Visitor Experience						
Action Items	Target Date				Responsible (Lead)	Budget/PMIS (if applicable)
	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	Future Years		
Focus of Work: Increase awareness of the park, its resources, and recreational opportunities to residents in counties that border the park: Monroe, Pike, Northampton counties in Pennsylvania and Sussex and Warren counties in New Jersey.						
Action Research demographic and cultural data to better understand this audience and identify trends in recreation. (Collaborate with local tourism boards, etc.)	X	X	X	X	Supervisory Park Ranger	ONPS PMIS 154548
Action Identify an appropriate year-round visitor center.	X				Outreach and Education Coordinator	
Action Conduct annual visitor surveys.	X	X	X	X		
Action Collaborate with local fishing group to host children’s fishing clinic and contest.	X	X				
Action Develop a marketing strategy aimed at promoting the park as a place for identified recreation trends.	X				Visual Information Specialist	ONPS
Action Work with realtors, community associations, resorts, etc. to develop “welcome packets” introducing new residents to the park resources and recreational opportunities.		X			Public Affairs Specialist	
Action Identify media sources that serve specific cultural groups (African, Asian, and Latino) and create and distribute catered information on recreational opportunities to each.	X				Outreach and Education Coordinator	
Action Work with local community associations to advertise recreational opportunities.	X					
Action Adopt a scout group and collaborate with leaders on opportunities to fulfill badge requirements using park resources.			X		Outreach and Education Coordinator	ONPS

Visitor Experience — continued

Action Items	Target Date				Responsible (Lead)	Budget/PMIS (if applicable)
	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	Future Years		
Focus of Work: Increase awareness of the park, its resources, and recreational opportunities through electronic platforms.						
Action Review website in current state; prioritize needs.	X				Visual Information Specialist	ONPS
Action Advertise current park events on Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau website.	X	X	X	X		
Action Prepare website for NPS Centennial Rollout.	X					
Action Revise park website to better promote accessible recreational opportunities.	X					
Action Capture and maintain a library of quality photo and video footage for use in media products.	X	X	X	X		
Action Investigate dialogue-based social media platforms to communicate about park resources, events, policies, management, etc.	X	X	X	X		
Focus of Work: Increase visitor safety.						
Action Determine important safety information for specific activities (water use, biking, hiking, hunting, etc.) and develop messages. Collaborate with parks (such as UPDE) with similar recreation uses and use their experiences as guidance.	X				Supervisory Park Ranger	ONPS
Action Develop visitor safety plans to include schedules for information dissemination.		X				
Focus of Work: Increase accessibility of recreational opportunities for visitors with physical disabilities.						
Action Collaborate with park staff, professionals, and members of the accessibility community to evaluate existing opportunities for accessible recreation and to identify needs.	X				Supervisory Park Ranger	ONPS Consider PMIS project development
Action Define and prioritize potential projects.		X				

Interpretation/Education						
Action Items	Target Date				Responsible (Lead)	Budget/PMIS (if applicable)
	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	Future Years		
Focus of Work: Work through educators of 4th – 6th grade Title I schools to promote the park as a place of learning.						
Action Identify specific schools/districts/education professionals to partner with and collaborate to develop education strategy.	X				Outreach and Education Coordinator	ONPS
Focus of Work: Provide in-depth park experiences for youth.						
Action Execute Class of 2016 project plan.	X				Outreach and Education Coordinator	PMIS 201218
Action Collaborate with Pocono Environmental Education Center to expand Women and Water program and develop Boys in Boats program.	X	X	X	X		Develop PMIS
Action Collaborate with Appalachian Mountain Club to expand Urban Youth Outreach program.	X	X	X	X		PMIS 214865
Action Work with HOPE, SCA, and other student work projects to include interpretive experiences in their programs.	X	X	X	X		ONPS
Focus of Work: Shift focus of public interpretive programming to include experiences that are active, engaging, and promote dialogue.						
Action Incorporate philosophy and techniques of audience focused interpretation and free-choice learning into programming. Train and coach staff accordingly.	X	X	X	X	Supervisory Park Ranger	ONPS
Action Increase interpretive programs that offer active participation and hands-on learning opportunities (citizen science projects, skills workshops, resource immersion).	X	X	X	X	Outreach and Education Coordinator	
Action Focus program themes on topics that are resource-based but that also extend beyond park boundaries (climate change, watershed, habitat corridors, migration, settlement, dark skies, etc.).	X	X	X	X		
Action Create outlets for shared experiences through photo-sharing opportunities (contests, themed events, identify “selfie-spots,” promote photo tagging and # use).	X	X	X	X	Visual Information Specialist	

Interpretation/Education — continued						
Action Items	Target Date				Responsible (Lead)	Budget/PMIS (if applicable)
	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	Future Years		
Focus of Work: Enhance in-park, non-personal media and visitor contact areas.						
Action Determine best location for year-round visitor center.	X				Supervisory Park Ranger	ONPS
Action Initiate construction plan for amphitheater in Dingmans Campground.		X				
Action Develop interpretive strategy for non-personal media at Kittatinny Point Visitor Center.	X	X			Supervisory Park Ranger Visual Information Specialist	ONPS Consider PMIS project development
Action Complete installation of park waysides.	X				Chief of Facilities	PMIS 201316
Action Complete park-wide sign plan (see Appendix 13).			X			
Action Collaborate and provide support and guidance to Historic Building Stewardship Program.	X	X	X	X		
Action Collaborate with Peters Valley School of Craft on Environmental Art Project.	X	X				
Action Finalize bulletin board plan to include Bushkill Meeting Center and Dingmans Maintenance area.	X				Supervisory Park Ranger	ONPS
Action Complete comprehensive trail brochure.	X					
Action Explore possibility of and develop plan if appropriate to rework U.S. 209 Commercial Use Fee Booths to provide information and interpretive media.		X			Outreach and Education Coordinator	
Focus of Work: Create a Visitor Experience plan for Millbrook Village.						
Action Identify project team members. Evaluate current visitor experience and define visitor experience goals for new plan.		X	X		Visual Information Specialist	

Partnerships/Volunteers						
Action Items	Target Date				Responsible (Lead)	Budget/PMIS (if applicable)
	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	Future Years		
Focus of Work: Strengthen partnerships.						
Action Develop a formal nomination process to acknowledge partners who exemplify strong partnership qualities and do work that align with park goals.	X				Partnership and Volunteer Programs Coordinator	ONPS
Action Provide training opportunities that help partners accomplish mutual goals.	X	X	X	X		
Focus of Work: Strengthen and refocus volunteer program based on park priorities.						
Action Develop Volunteer-in-Park strategic plan.	X				Partnership and Volunteer Programs Coordinator	ONPS
Action Recruit Assistant Volunteer Coordinator position.	X					
Action Strengthen activity-specific volunteer programs, such as Water Safety Ambassadors and McDade Trail Stewards.	X	X	X	X	Supervisory Park Ranger Bushkill Supervisory Ranger	



Appendix 2 – Workshop Generated Ideas

The following is a list of additional action items developed during planning workshops as suggestions to meet Long-Range Interpretive Plan goals. The merit of these actions has not yet been evaluated for viability, effectiveness, or practicality. This section serves as a holding area until these action items can be reviewed and determined for inclusion in future planning.

Visitor Experience:

- Work with Bushkill Outreach to increase awareness of park recreational opportunities for residents of Middle Smithfield and Lehman Townships.
- Develop marketing strategy aimed at promoting community activities (community garden, exercise trails, etc.).
- Develop a strategy for regular electronic media postings that coordinate with the timing of natural events.
- Improve driving directions.
- Provide downloadable trail maps.
- Offer orientation programs to groups that recreate in the park on a regular basis.
- Identify and collaborate with specific recreation user groups to host events (competition, clinic, work day, etc.) specific to their organization's goals.
- Create a visitor experience plan for Millbrook Village.
- Create webpages and site bulletins that focus on “theme” tours.
- Develop a PMIS project for a video on touring/visiting DEWA.
- Research the idea of introducing earthcaching activities/locations.
- Provide cross-training opportunities for front-line interpretive staff to increase their knowledge of park resources and operations.
- Short video highlighting scenic visitor areas for post on sites such as YouTube.
- Develop picnic spaces for large groups.
- Develop short videos that highlight the scenic areas of the park.
- Create a “badge” program to acknowledge recreation milestones (so many miles hiked, biked, etc.)
- Design a menu of opportunities to help visitors narrow down activity options.

Interpretation/Education:

- Provide opportunities for students to “give back” through citizen science, service learning, and volunteer work.
- Utilized education professionals to review/develop lesson plans according to state standards. Upload to website and NPS education portal.
- Interpret park's archeological heritage. Update and market archeological trunk program.
- Offer field trip tours of the park.

- Explore ways to incorporate Earth Week into the school calendar.
- Develop social media calendar for postings.
- Develop strategy to drive traffic to the park website.
- Develop a night sky program.
- Conduct special programs such as behind-the-scenes or “fam” tours.
- Offer an annual day of meeting, sharing, and interpretive skill training.
- Plan an interpretive water trail.
- Get commitment from partners to hold regular interpretive programs.
- Set-up job shadow event for students to speak with and observe professionals.
- Provide community service opportunities for honor students.
- Revise Junior Ranger program booklet.
- Produce an exhibit element for each interior exhibit area that incorporates comprehensive “views” of the park.
- Collaborate with tribes to create exhibits on the Lenape culture.
- Develop interpretive opportunities in tandem with new Visitor Use Management Plan.
- Tag time period to sites (rather than all sites interpreting all time periods).
- Develop trails at the Foster Armstrong House to interpret ferries on the river.
- Develop an outreach kit for park constituents that include photos, maps, objects, and other material to enrich their own interpretive efforts.
- Create a video tour of the Pierce House.
- Synchronize press releases and podcasts summarizing completed or ongoing research and monitoring activities.
- Explore possibility for Distance Learning opportunities.
- Develop challenge programs for urban youth to experience backcountry skills.

Partners/Collaborators/Volunteers:

- Sponsor sharing sessions with partners and other parks and organizations that serve this audience to learn best practices.
- Seek out and collaborate with organizations that have programs in place that connect this audience with issues related and significant to but not confined DEWA (PA DCNR watershed program and Philadelphia Water Department clean water program).
- Produce news releases and newsletters promoting work of partners and volunteers.
- Strengthen recognition of volunteers.



Appendix 3 – Interpretive Theme Matrix

A Landscape of Change Predestined by distinctive geography, the Middle Delaware River Valley is a stage for playing out the changing relationship between people and this American landscape over time. <i>Includes Foundation Document significance statements #5, 7, 8, & 9</i>	
Concepts Concepts that may be explored within this theme	Topics and Stories Representative topics and stories that could be included within the theme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and contrast the substantially undeveloped Delaware River corridor with other large rivers of the Northeast. Explore the contributions and impact of a contiguous greenway in the most densely populated region of the United States. Compare the similarities and differences of recreation at the turn of the century and the present day. Describe and compare the various attitudes and motivations that led to the authorization and then deauthorization of Tocks Island Dam project. Explore the role the Tocks Island Dam controversy played in the greater environmental movement occurring throughout the country. Explain how the Tocks Island Dam project influenced and shaped the cultural landscape within the park. Illustrate how societal values of the landscape have changed from a hunter-gatherer society to food production society to recreation/tourism based society. Consider/evaluate the importance or value of recreation in contemporary society, and explore the history and historic features of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area for evidence that this value has or has not changed. Describe/characterize the (physical, geographic, etc.) qualities of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area that make it a premiere recreation destination in the Northeast; how does it compare to recreation opportunities near other major urban centers. Discuss the continued national debate over proper use of public land (i.e. revenue, utilitarian use, preservation, outdoor recreation). Discover and show the range of recreational opportunities available within the park. Experience one or more recreational activities in the park and define one's personal definition of recreation. 	<p>Conservation Movement Tocks Island plan & preparation Result of no dam on the people and on the landscape Appalachian National Scenic Trail Tourism Civilian Conservation Corps Place for education, inspiration and renewal</p> <p>Recreation, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canoeing Hiking Night sky viewing Horseback riding Biking Dog walking Kayaking Boating Swimming Fishing Hunting Scenic driving Picnicking Ranger-led programming Camping Lodging Backpacking Photography Birding & other wildlife viewing <p>People, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservationists Developers Corps of Engineers Displaced landowners Recreationists Lenape Settlers Military Local residents <p>Delaware River and tributaries National Park idea and context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic Act Enabling legislation Other laws/policy <p>Protected lands, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle Delaware National Scenic & Recreational River Delaware Water Gap NRA Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge Worthington State Forest Stokes State Forest NJ Wildlife Management Areas High Point State Park NJ Preserves Delaware State Forest PA Natural Areas County/Municipal Parks Conservancy and Land Trust Protected Lands

A Gap in the Urban Map

Precariously situated within the most densely populated region of the United States, the middle Delaware River Valley, with its iconic landforms and uncommon ecological integrity, is part of an extensive network of protected landscapes contributing to the sustained health of natural processes.

Includes Foundation Document significance statements #1, 2, 3, 4, & 5

Concepts Concepts that may be explored within this theme	Topics and Stories Representative topics and stories that could be included within the theme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the geologic processes that define and continue to shape the middle Delaware River Valley landscape and environments, and how have these resulted in the iconic features we see today. • Explain how geologic processes influenced land use and settlement patterns in the past and how it continues to do so today, providing an ideal area for protecting essential natural resources. • Identify essential habitats protected and describe how these habitats are key to the health of native plants and animal communities. • Sequence the network of local, state, and federally protected natural landscapes to demonstrate how these connected habitats benefit native plant and animal communities and human sustainability. • Describe the various habitats and show how these wildlife corridors sustain an exceptional concentration and diversity of native plant and animal communities. • List the recreational opportunities provided by the varied natural landscape. • Explore the benefits of the substantially undeveloped river corridor that is unmatched among large rivers in the most densely populated region of the United States. • Explain how protected areas are able to support rare, threatened, and endangered ecological communities. • Explain how the protected Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River substantially contributes to the exceptional ecological integrity of the Delaware River and how this integrity benefits human societies. • Discuss how conservation and preservation of natural resources is critical, not only for their intrinsic values, but also to maintain human health and economy. • Discuss the complexity of nature and how species are connected to each other's health, including how humans are also dependent on the health of other species and the environment as a whole. • Discuss how succession affects the diversity and abundance of plants and animals seen today, verses what was seen in decades and centuries past. • Consider the values of the park as a bridge into natural experiences for nearby urban and suburban populations and explore the human benefits that can be facilitated by these experiences. • Illustrate how the park is a changing reclaimed landscape, although it appears to be changed little over time • Discuss the importance of protected natural spaces as natural laboratories; for example to document how climate change affects natural systems 	Iconic geologic features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterfalls • The Gap • The river • Kittatinny Ridge • Pocono Escarpment Geology Hydrology Botany Biology Climate change Settlement patterns in relation to the landscape Flora Fauna Rare, threatened, and endangered species Hemlock ravine ecosystem American chestnut Ecological integrity and sustainability Dark skies Soundscapes Invasive species Research Environmental impacts Land management principles and decisions Water quality Air quality View sheds Wilderness values Wildlife corridor Biodiversity Benefits of the oasis of natural area in a largely populated area Human use of the landscape

A Frontier of Change

The diversity and integrity of cultural resources at Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area offers exceptional opportunities to examine changing human communities and values along societal frontiers.

Includes Foundation Document significance statements #5, 7, 8, & 9

<p>Concepts</p> <p>Concepts that may be explored within this theme</p>	<p>Topics and Stories</p> <p>Representative topics and stories that could be included within the theme.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how the middle Delaware River valley was a frontier for various societies through time and the challenges they faced. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the relationship between earliest native peoples and a new landscape never before experienced by human peoples. Explore the relationship among native people and Europeans, and Euro-American settlement and the wildness of the west. Explore the relationship between Euro-American settlement and the wildness of the west. Explore the relationship between the oppressiveness of the industrial revolution-era city and the new leisure opportunities for relaxation of the country-side for turn of the century visitors. Explore the relationship between the stress of day-to-day life and the renewal and inspiration of escape for many visitors. Describe the various historic districts and explain their significance. Illustrate the changes in key architecture through the centuries and how the structures reflect the time they were built. Consider the rarity and importance of concentrated cultural resources in the Northeast. Discuss how the construction of railroads during the early 19th century transformed the Delaware River valley from an agrarian economy to a resort economy. Explore the meanings of wealth and the valley's land bounty for different societies over time. Explore the relationship between the land and people, and the perseverance and adaptation necessary to survive/succeed. Explore the relationship to the agriculture landscape and how it persists for nearly 1000 years. Discuss the importance of Old Mine Road as an early commercial route and the reasons Old Mine Road maintained historical integrity. Describe the choices, benefits, liabilities, and tensions inherent in managing cultural sites and landscapes. Explore the aspects of the Delaware River valley that inspire artists, such as Marie Zimmermann and artists at Peters Valley School of Craft and the Hudson River School of painters. Describe the purpose and use of historic buildings that are still being used today in their original capacity, such as Montague Grange and Minisink Church, and that have been adapted for reuse, such as Van Campen Inn and Marie Zimmermann House. 	<p>Archeology</p> <p>Agriculture</p> <p>Architecture</p> <p>Visitors and residents, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Indians Lenape/Munsee People Early settlers Resort era Modern visitors and communities <p>Specific people, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Peirce Marie Zimmermann Van Campen Van Auken Schoonover, Van Ettens Nancy Shukaitis Gifford Pinchot George Inness <p>Industry, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining Lumbering Mills Tanning "Western" silent movies <p>Camps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boy Scout Church Other <p>Historic districts, landmarks & villages, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minisink Old Mine Road Millbrook Village Walpack Center <p>Historic Structures, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Westbrook Bell Copper mines French and Indian War forts Railroad



Appendix 4 – Legislation

TITLE OF LEGISLATION- # CONGRESS

Public Law 89-158

89th Congress H.R. 89

September 1, 1965

An Act to authorize establishment of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to further the purposes of the joint resolution approved September 27, 1961 (re Delaware River Basin compact; 75 Stat. 688), and to provide in a manner coordinated with the other purposes of the Tocks Island Reservoir project, for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of the proposed Tocks Island Reservoir and lands adjacent thereto by the people of the United States and for preservation of the scenic, scientific and historic features contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized, as herein provided, to establish and administer the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, hereinafter referred to as the “area”, as part of the Tocks Island Reservoir project, hereinafter referred to as “the project”.

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Army is authorized and directed to acquire, by such means as he may deem to be in the public interest, and as a part of this acquisition of properties for the project, lands and interests therein within the boundaries of the area, as generally depicted on the drawing entitled Proposed Tocks Island National Recreation Area” dated and numbered September 1962, NRATI-7100, which drawing is on file in the Office of the National Park Service Department of the Interior. In acquiring these lands, the Secretary of the Army may utilize such statutory authorities as are available to him for the acquisition of project lands: Provided, That the Secretary of the Army shall acquire no lands or interests in land by exchange for lands or interests in land in Federal ownership unless the latter are in the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, or New York. Periodically, and as soon as practicable after such lands and interests within the area are acquired, the Secretary of the Army shall transfer jurisdiction there over to the Secretary of the Interior for the purposes of this Act

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized, after consultation with appropriate public officials of the affected political subdivisions of the States of Pennsylvania or New Jersey, as the case may be, to designate not more than three hundred acres adjacent and contiguous to the Borough of Milford, Pennsylvania, and not more than one thousand acres in Sussex County, New Jersey, for omission from the Delaware Valley National Recreation Area and the lands so designated shall not be acquired, for said national recreation area under authority of this Act.

(c) The Secretary of the Interior shall investigate, study, and report to the President and the Congress on the feasibility and usefulness of extending the boundaries of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to include, in whole or in part, that portion of Tocks Island Reservoir which lies upstream from the northern terminus of the national recreation area as shown on the map hereinbefore referred to and lands adjacent to said portion of said reservoir. No such extension of boundaries, however, shall be made until authorized by Act of Congress.

(d) The beneficial owner, not being a corporation, of a freehold interest acquired before January 1, 1965, in improved residential property within the area to be acquired by the Secretary of the Army under authority of this Act, the continued use of which property for noncommercial residential purposes for a limited time will not, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior, unduly interfere with the development of public-use facilities for the national recreation area and will not, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Army/ unduly interfere with the operation of the Tocks Island Reservoir project, may retain a right of use and occupancy of such property for noncommercial residential purposes for, as said owner may elect, either (i) a period terminating upon his death or the death of his spouse, whichever occurs later, or (ii) a term of not more than twenty-five years: Provided, That in no case shall the period or term for which such right of use and occupancy is retained extend beyond the term of the freehold interest acquired by the United States. The price payable to the owner of such property shall be reduced by an amount equal to the value of the right retained. As used in this Act “improved residential property” means a single-family year-round dwelling, the construction of which was begun before January 21, 1963, which dwelling serves as the owner’s permanent place of abode at the time of its acquisition by the United States, together with not more than three acres of land on which the dwelling and appurtenant buildings are located which land the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of the Army, as the case may be, finds is reasonably necessary for the owner’s continued use and occupancy of the dwelling.

SEC. 3. (a) As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act and following the transfer to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of the Army of jurisdiction over those lands and interests therein within the boundary generally depicted on the drawing described in section 2 hereof which, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior, constitute an efficiently administrable unit, the Secretary of the Interior shall declare establishment of the area by publication of notice thereof in the Federal Register. Such notice shall

contain detailed description of the boundaries of the area which shall encompass, to the extent practicable, the lands and waters shown on said drawing. Prior to such establishment, the Secretary of the Interior shall administer such transferred lands and waters, consistent with the construction of the project, for purposes in contemplation of the establishment of the area pursuant to this Act.

(b) The Secretary of the Interior may subsequently make adjustments in the boundary of the area by publication of the amended description thereof in the Federal Register and acquire, by such means as he may deem to be in the public interest, including: an exchange of excluded for included lands or interests therein with or without the payment or receipt of money to equalize values, additional lands and interests therein included in the area by reason of the boundary adjustment: Provided, that the area encompassed by such revised boundary shall not exceed the acreage included within the detailed boundary first described pursuant to this section.

(c) On lands acquired pursuant, to this Act for recreation purposes, the Secretary of the Army, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Interior, may permit the continuance of existing uses consistent with the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 4. In the administration of the area for the purposes of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may utilize such statutory authorities relating to areas of the national park system and such statutory authorities otherwise available to him for the conservation, management, or disposal of vegetative, mineral, or fish or wildlife resources as he deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act. To assure consistent and effective planning, development, and operation for all purposes of the project, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army shall coordinate the administration of their respective responsibilities in the project; and such administration shall be consistent with the joint resolution approved September 27, 1961 (re Delaware River Basin compact; 75 Stat. 688).

SEC. 5. In the administration of the area for the purposes of this Act the Secretary of the Interior, subject to provisions of section 4 hereof, shall adopt and implement, and may from time to time revise, a land and water use management plan, which shall include specific provision for, in order of priority— (1) public outdoor recreation benefits; (2) preservation of scenic, scientific, and historic features contributing to public enjoyment; (3) such utilization of natural resources as in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior is consistent with, and does not significantly impair, public recreation and protection of scenic, scientific, and historic features contributing to public enjoyment.

SEC. 6. The Secretary of the Interior shall permit hunting and fishing on lands and waters under his jurisdiction within the area in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of the States concerned and of the United States. The Secretary of the Interior may designate zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, wildlife management, administration, or public use and enjoyment not compatible with hunting, and may, in his plan for the area, provide areas for intensive fish and wildlife management, including public hunting and fishing, and shall issue appropriate regulations after consultation with appropriate officials of the States concerned. The Secretary of the Interior shall encourage such officials to adopt uniform regulations applicable to the whole of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

SEC. 7. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to deprive any State or political subdivision thereof, of its right to exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction over the lands and waters within the area or of its right to tax persons, corporations, franchises, or property on the lands and waters included in the area.

SEC. 8. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior for the acquisition of lands and interests in land pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of this Act and for expenses incident thereto not more than \$37,412,000 which moneys shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Army. There are also authorized to be appropriated not more than \$18,200,000 for the cost of installing and constructing recreation facilities on the lands and interests in lands so acquired. The amounts herein authorized to be appropriated are supplemental to those authorized to be appropriated for the Tocks Island project and related facilities by the Flood Control Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 1182).

Approved September 1, 1965.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY;

HOUSE REPORT No. 360 (Comm. on Interior & Insular Affairs).

SENATE REPORT No. 598 (Comm. on Interior & Insular Affairs).

Appendix 5 – Interpretation Division Staffing

The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Chief of Interpretation, Education, and VIP/Partnerships supervises three positions (one for each category). Most other interpretive positions are supervised by the Supervisory Park Ranger. This includes a part-time permanent and a changing number of summer seasonal positions. Also, the VIP/Partnership coordinator has an assistant. However, many of these core positions are currently vacant.

How these positions and their Full Time Equivalent (FTE) will be distributed in the park to meet future needs is to be determined.

Title	Series & Grade	Status	#
Chief of Interpretation, Education, and Partnerships	GS-0025/13	Perm-FT	1
Supervisory Park Ranger	GS-0025/11	Perm-FT	1
Park Ranger	GS-0025/09	Perm-PT	1
Visual Information Specialist	GS-1084-09	Perm-FT	1
Partnership and Volunteer Programs Coordinator	GS-0301/11	Perm-FT	1
Administrative Assistant	GS-0303/05	Perm-FT	1
Park Ranger	GS-0025/05	Temp	3
Park Guide	GS-0090/04	Temp	7
Park Guide	GS-0090/03	Temp	5

FT = Full Time
Perm = Permanent
Temp = Temporary (Seasonal)

Appendix 6 – Volunteers in Parks (2014)

Volunteer hours by category:

Administration: 25,205

Campground Host: 0

Cultural Resource Management: 2,612

General Management: 19,892

Interpretation: 50,482

Maintenance: 29,439

Natural Resource Management: 2,045

Protection/Operations/Law Enforcement: 112

Training: 3,311

Program costs by category:

Housing: \$3,000.

Meals: \$0.00

Recognition/Award: \$ 336.65

Supplies: \$ 16,592.89

Training: \$ 247.42

Transportation: \$ 0.00

Uniforms: \$ 84.84

Volunteer Program Highlight: In 2014 the Recreation Area's Open Space Team Volunteers made a huge impact in the natural areas of the park by helping the park meet its goal (GMP) of maintaining 20% of the natural area of the park as open space for many years. They accomplish this by mowing, maintaining the equipment, planting native grasses and forbs, controlling invasive exotics. The valuable work the team performs for the park boosts and maintains public interest in bird watching, wildlife viewing, and hunting benefiting both recreationists and wildlife. This year we developed a HOPE Crew project in Layton, New Jersey, consisting of members from the Student Conservation Association. Corps members worked on the rehabilitation of four historic structures found within Camp Ken-Etiwa-Pec (KEP) a former Boys Scouts camp located within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Over the course of 12 weeks, the crew repaired the doors, windows, and siding on the Dining Hall, Rangers' House, Park Cabin, and Office buildings.

Number of VIPs housed in Permanent Structures: 38

Number of SCAs: 26 SCA Hours: 7710





Appendix 7 – Existing Conditions

The following is a brief and general description of visitor experiences and interpretive services that existed in FY2014.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area provides an extensive range of recreational options to millions of visitors. Travelers from surrounding areas find easy access to the park. Visitors may enter Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area at 84 “legitimate” entrances, including interstate highways, state and local roads, and by river access, both north and south of park boundaries. Numerous other user-created entrance points also exist, which may be associated with social trails or old road traces. As a result, most visitors who enter and use the recreation area are not contacted by a ranger or park representative and many are not properly oriented and informed. Many visitors do not know they are in a unit of the National Park System.

U.S. 209 is one of the original highways in the 1926 U.S. Highway System Plan. The highway travels through the length of the park on the Pennsylvania side. This strategically-placed scenic route brings many visitors to and through the park.

The New Jersey side of the park tends to be much more rural, receiving less visitation, requiring slower driving speeds, and providing easier access to pull-offs from which visitors can take walks into the park.

Orientation

In the vast and complex landscape of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, orientation is a key issue for visitors.

Visitors may not be able to locate key areas of the park due to lack of informational and directional signs; they may find existing signs are inaccurate, confusing, and misleading. Especially on the New Jersey side, visitors do not find the park information they need, such as directions and guidance for specific places to visit, park, and hike. The park brochure does not identify restroom locations.

Global positioning systems are relied upon by many travelers. Unfortunately, the addresses of park and community locations are frequently misinterpreted by this tool. In addition, many locations have very limited satellite connectivity because of the park’s mountainous landscape. With inadequate or faulty park signs, this problem is aggravated.

National Geographic has recently produced a high-quality waterproof map of the park. This map is available for sale at the Dingmans Falls Visitor Center, and through other sales sources.

Services

Monroe County Transit Authority bus routes in the park provide access to the many beaches, boat launches, and hiking trails along the entire McDade Recreation Trail.

Several commercial use authorizations are in place to assist visitors with renting canoes and shuttle services.

National Park Service Identity

Some audiences appreciate the park in ways that may be contrary to the NPS mission. They may be excited about “discovering” trees to cut down for fuel, or feel pride in clearing an area of undergrowth and trees (this may include poison ivy) in order to prepare a picnic spot. Some park users appreciate the recreational aspect of the park, yet are not strongly oriented toward the resource protection aspect of the area.

Visitors to the area may be confused about which facilities are operated by the National Park Service. As an example, park visitor centers are closed in the winter, yet the PA I-80, PA I-84, and NJ I-80 Welcome Centers are open year-round.

Facilities

Bushkill Meeting Center

Located on U.S. 209 in the village of Bushkill, the Bushkill Meeting Center is housed in the former St. John’s Church. The building serves as a suitable place for meetings which include NPS staff, contractors, the local community, and other participants.

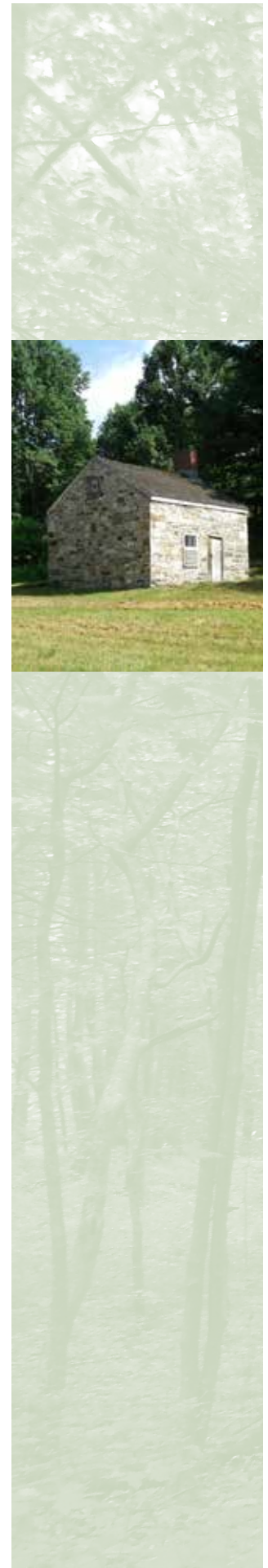
Campgrounds

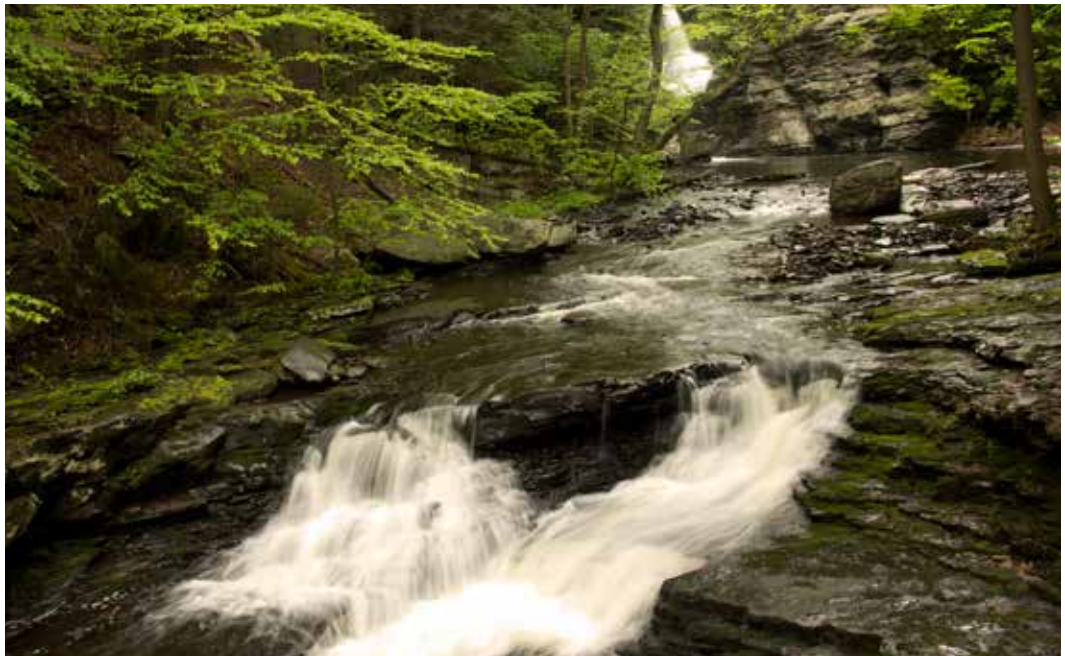
There are no NPS-operated campgrounds within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. However, the Dingmans Campground currently operates as a park concession. There are numerous private and state-operated campgrounds near the National Recreation Area.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail users have opportunities to camp near the trail (with restrictions), and overnight canoe travelers are permitted to camp at 65 designated locations along the river.



At Smithfield Beach, visitors can rent bicycles to ride on the McDade Recreational Trail.





The George W. Childs Park trail was rehabilitated in 2013 to help protect the sensitive ecosystem from high visitor use.

Dingmans Falls Visitor Center

The visitor center building was the souvenir shop and admission station for a commercial waterfall tourist attraction prior to NPS acquisition in 1976. The site is generally open seven days a week from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day, three to five days a week May, September, and October, and has been closed completely November through April. The site is situated in a hemlock ravine along a pristine creek with two waterfalls. An accessible boardwalk to the two waterfalls has been constructed. Restroom facilities are located in a separate building approximately 75 feet away from the visitor center.



Permanent exhibits interpret the natural, cultural, and economic heritage of the hemlock forest. A DVD player and screen are set up for viewing various videos.

Parking facilities are adequate most of the season. Summer weekends result in overcrowding with visitors parking along the entry road or the flood plain of Dingmans Creek, creating safety and environmental concerns.

Fee Collection Sites

Some park fee collection sites are self-service, while some are staffed. The fee collection sites impart information about rules and regulations, and also serve as visitor contact sites.

Foster-Armstrong House

Through a formal partnership with the park, the Montague Association for the Restoration of Community History (MARCH) manages a museum of local history in the colonial home. Listed on the National Register, the Foster-Armstrong house displays items of historical interest from the 1700s up to the early 1900s.

George W. Childs Park

This site was renovated and re-opened in 2013. Located on Silver Lake Road, this former state park area features a two mile loop trail around three waterfalls along Dingmans Creek. The site is very popular for both local residents and visitors.

Wayside exhibit panels are placed at the CCC-constructed picnic pavilion and along the trail. Safety and regulation signs are placed at trailheads and parking lot. At present no formal interpretive programs are offered at this site, but informal roving contacts are offered on weekends during the summer. In winter, snow and ice require closing of the site for the winter months.

Interstate Welcome Centers

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area works with two nearby Pennsylvania Interstate Welcome Centers to provide park information to interstate highway travelers. At the northern end of the recreation area the I-84 Welcome Center in Matamoras, Pennsylvania, provides park information to south-bound travelers. At the southern end of the recreation area the I-80 Welcome Center is located in the borough of Delaware Water Gap. In New Jersey, Knowlton Visitor Information Center is located on I-80 east at mile marker 7.

Kittatinny Point Visitor Center

Kittatinny Point Visitor Center, once the primary orientation station for the recreation area, has suffered continual reduction in hours and staffing, until it was completely closed following the 2013 sequestration. Even without an operating visitor center, the site was completely “mobbed” in the summer months. The site serves two visitor use groups, which compete for space. The location makes Kittatinny Point useful for boaters who are putting-in or taking-out. The beach space however, becomes crowded with picnickers, grillers, and bathers, who also leave clutter on the beach and contribute to piles of trash. The summer of 2014, the visitor center reopened and alcohol, swimming, and grilling were prohibited at Kittatinny Point.

Marie Zimmermann House

In 1944, Marie Zimmermann (1879-1972) closed her National Arts Club Studio and moved away from the New York art scene to her family’s vacation home near Milford, Pennsylvania. She was in her mid-sixties, a nationally acclaimed metal crafts artist with a half-dozen employees, coverage in national arts magazines, and exhibitions from coast to coast. The Friends of Marie Zimmermann made improvements to the home and in 2013, the group provided tours of the home. In early 2014, the group terminated their partnership with the park and the building is now unused.

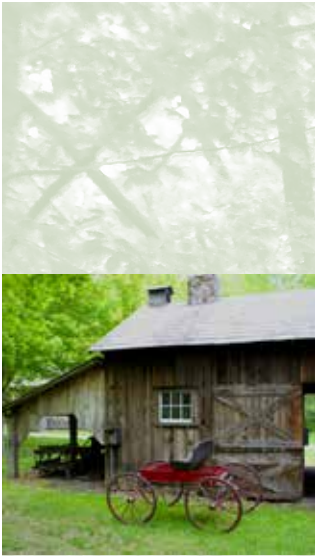
Millbrook Village

Millbrook Village is a recreated 19th century agricultural village which interprets subsistence farming life in a northwest New Jersey setting. Visitors are introduced to the village via a brochure and map describing the village’s history and buildings. During the times when the village is open, this brochure is available on the information table located in a historic cabin otherwise in brochure boxes adjacent to the parking lot. Parking and rest room facilities adequately meet the needs of visitors. Staff has adequate restroom, office, and lunchroom facilities due to the conversion of one of the historic buildings to an office area; however, internet, phone, and cell service is not reliable.

Approximately 15 miles of trails are located around the village, including a segment of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

The site is popular with family groups. Some children’s programs are offered in the





summer. Although many visitors don't choose to stay for the hour-long programs, or are unable to plan the timing of their visit accordingly, the children's programs have developed a small but loyal following.

Staffing levels are inadequate to keep all the buildings open to the public. Volunteers from the Millbrook Village Society and also Volunteers in Parks assist in this aspect of operations, but on an irregular basis.

A gradual decrease in staffing contributed to a decreased level of effectiveness in conducting educational programs at Millbrook Village. A solution was found, in creating a two-day "Hands-On History" program in which all available staff members and volunteers conducted simultaneous site tours and demonstrations, and could accommodate "floods" of school children. This event took place in the spring, which coincided with the end of the school year and with the arrival of seasonal staff. Further staffing reductions resulted in canceling the Hands On History program in 2014.

Each October, the park and Millbrook Village Society sponsor a weekend-long folklife festival called Millbrook Days. During this special event, park rangers and volunteers present an array of 19th century craft demonstrations and other interpretive activities. Visitors (several thousand) are shuttled in to the village from outlying parking areas. Although sequestration forced cancellation of the event in 2013, it resumed in 2014.

Mohican Outdoor Center

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), who operates the Mohican Outdoor Center, has partnered with the park for over 30 years. The group occupies the former Boy Scout camp called Camp Mohican. The AMC promotes the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters, and trails of America's Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. At the Mohican Outdoor Center, AMC provides lodging and food services and recreational-based programs. Many youth from the New York City area are introduced to the recreational opportunities in the park through AMC's Youth Opportunities Program.

Neldon Roberts Stonehouse

The Neldon-Roberts Schoolhouse houses a museum of local interest, which is operated through partnership with MARCH. The schoolhouse structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Park Headquarters

Park headquarters is an administrative building with a staffed reception desk and a few displays. The facility is open Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, year-round, except federal holidays. In the winter, this is the only facility open to the public.

The McDade Recreational Trail footbridge and two decks alongside the building provide views of a wildlife-rich pond. Parking at park headquarters on weekdays is often over its designed capacity with employee vehicles, making it difficult for visitors to park and come in for information. There are no accommodations for oversized vehicles, such as RVs and pull-along trailers. At all events, being closed on the weekends indicates that the receptionist's primary function is to serve park staff rather than the public.

Peters Valley School of Craft

Peters Valley School of Craft (PVSC) is a long term partner of the park, occupying buildings in the former village of Bevens. Drawing on the park as inspiration, PVSC mission is to enrich lives through the learning, appreciation and practice of the art of fine craft.

Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC)

Pocono Environmental Education Center has been an official park partner for over 40 years, occupying the former resort, Honeymoon Haven. PEEC advances environmental education, sustainable living, and appreciation for nature through hands-on experience in a national park. Many inner-city youth are introduced to environmental resources and ethics at this facility. The site includes residential cabins, cafeteria, amphitheater for lectures, gift shop, exhibits, and trails.

River Access Points

At both motor boat and canoe launching sites, a river orientation panel is installed and river safety information is posted in a bulletin board case.

Access points to the river may be insufficient to accommodate the number of visitors who use the park in the busy season. Benches for people to rest at the existing river access points are few.

Rosenkrans House & Museum

This house is one of the oldest buildings in Walpack Center. Built in 1850 by Jasper Rundle, the house is built in the Delaware Valley style of architecture. Walpack Historical Society volunteers staff Sunday afternoons May to October, and may be open for special events at other times. The Walpack Historical Society is a volunteer group.

U.S. 209 Commercial Use Fee Booths


The U.S. 209 Contact Stations were intended to function as fee collection booths and regulatory checkpoints for commercial use vehicles. Limited information and brief NPS contacts were the outcomes for visitors at these locations. In 2014 the park ceased collecting fees for commercial use vehicles at these stations, and these booths stand empty.

Van Campen Inn

A Dutch colonial home dating from the French & Indian War, this building was



Artist at the Peters Valley School of Craft, located within the park, draw inspiration from natural setting of the facility.



designated a “Yaugh” house during Colonial times when it became common practice to offer homes as shelter for travelers. The farm was a self-sufficient plantation with animals and a blacksmith shop. The Inn is staffed by volunteers from the Walpack Historical Society and is usually open Sunday afternoons from May to October, and may be open for special events at other times.

Trails

A comprehensive trail network accommodates a range of recreational experiences, from dog walkers to Appalachian National Scenic Trail through-hikers. Two trails are designated as horseback riding trails and one trail is designated for biking.

Pennsylvania Trails

- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Arrow Island Trail
- Buchanan Trail
- Cliff Trail
- Conashaugh View Trail (horses permitted)
- Dingmans Creek Trail
- Fossil Trail
- George W. Childs Park Trail
- Hackers Trail
- Hidden Lake Trail
- Hornsbeck Creek Trail
- Logger Path Trail
- McDade Recreational Trail
(hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing)
- Milford Knob Trail
- Mt. Minsi Fire Road
- Pond Loop
- Quarry Path
- Railway Avenue Trail
- Raymondskill Falls and Creek Trails
- Ridgeline Trail
- Scenic Gorge Trail
- Sensory Awareness Trail
- Slateford Loop (hiking and cross country skiing)
- Toms Creek Trail
- Tumbling Waters Trail
- Two Ponds Trail

New Jersey Trails

- Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT)





Smithfield Beach is one of numerous areas in the park where visitors can enjoy a picnic near the river.

- Blue Mountain Lakes Trail (hiking and cross-country skiing)
- Blue-blaze Trail
- Buttermilk Falls Trail
- Coppermine Trail
- Coventry Pond Trail
- Crater Lake Trail
- Donkeys Corner Trail
- Hamilton Ridge Trail
- Hemlock Pond Loop
- Kaiser Trail
- Karamac Trail
- Military Trail
- Orchard Trail
- Pioneer Trail
- Rattlesnake Swamp Trail
- Red Dot (Tammany) Trail
- Upper Ridge Road Trail (horses permitted)
- Van Campens Glen
- Walpack Ridge Trail

Additionally, numerous trails are located within Worthington State Forest.





Accessibility Options

Visitor Contact Areas: Dingmans Falls Visitor Center, Kittatinny Point Visitor Center, and park headquarters are accessible. Millbrook Village has one accessible building and restroom.

Trails:

- The accessible boardwalk at Dingmans Falls crosses the creek and provides resting benches at scenic intervals. Railway Avenue Trail is a former paved road, creating an accessible path. George W. Childs Park Trail is accessible to the first waterfall.
- A “Trail for Everyone” was completed in late fall 2014 at PEEC.

Picnic Areas

Numerous small picnic areas are spread throughout the park. Some of these are independent picnic areas and others are part of more complex visitor use areas that include additional recreation opportunities such as swimming, fishing, hiking, etc.

Picnic areas with more-developed facilities are listed below.

Pennsylvania

- Milford Beach
- Toms Creek
- Bushkill Village
- Hidden Lake
- Loch Lomond
- Smithfield Beach
- Hialeah Picnic Area

New Jersey

- Namanock Recreation Site
- Watergate Recreation Site
- Turtle Beach
- Kittatinny Point

Wayside Exhibits

Throughout the park are three primary types of wayside exhibits. Bulletin boards at many locations are used to post changing messages about resource conditions, regulations, and programs. Vertical waysides and waist-high slanted panels are intended for pedestrians.

A wayside plan may reveal the need for additional panels. Places such as the Poxono boat ramp, where there is no ranger presence, desperately need wayside panels. Some hunters and fishermen only use these access points. Approximately thirty orientation panels are scheduled to be fabricated and installed in 2015 at many locations. Wayside panels at these locations would help with identity and orientation issues.

A set of smaller wayside panels is scheduled for installation at Dingmans Falls in 2015.





The Appalachian Mountain Club, a park partner, maintains the area that was once a Boy Scout camp just off the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, offering lodging, food and other services.

Website

The park's Visual Information Specialist is responsible for maintenance of the park website, which is located at nps.gov/dewa. Although maintained within the required NPS website framework, users may find the site too cumbersome and hard to navigate.

Social Media and Technology

The park hosts a Facebook page at DelWaterGapNPS. Facebook provides a standing invitation to virtual audiences to co-create the public experience of the park. Visitors can share photos.

- The park maintains a Twitter feed at DelWaterGapNPS.
- QR codes are used on few publications as links to the park website.
- Mobile phone apps may be more important than QR codes. Audiences can download the apps at home, and then not depend on cell phone connectivity at the park.
- For cable users, channels 13, 16, and 22 may present park-produced material.

Personal Services Programming

During the summer season, interpreters staff both the Dingmans Falls Visitor Center and the Kittatinny Point Visitor Center. The Kittatinny Point Visitor Center was closed in 2013 due to sequestration, but reopened in 2014. Budget issues of future years may again influence whether, or for how long, these visitor centers will be open.

When staffing levels permit, informal roving in heavily-used areas has proved to be an effective way to provide personal interactions between interpreters and visitors.



Summer weekends and during special events, costume interpreters and volunteers demonstrate life skills of the 1800s, like butter making, in Millbrook Village.

Although a number of interpretive staff may be assigned to this function, the majority of interactions fall upon non-interpreters who are trying to perform their own divisions' work.

The presence of a uniformed park ranger can provide a sense of identity, professionalism, and safety to many visitors. Conversely, some visitors may feel uncomfortable in the presence of a uniformed ranger.

Without a visitor center facility that is open full-time, year-round, and on a regular schedule from year to year, it would frustrate the public to publish the visitor center telephone number as the park information number. As a result, the park headquarters telephone number is the one most often listed in publications.

Education and Education Partnerships

Ranger-conducted educational programming for school groups has been gradually reduced over the past five years. Limited staff has reduced the park's ability to present programs and local school districts have not permitted schools to travel to the park, in an effort to save money. The park does not conduct teacher workshops to train teachers to effectively use the park and its resources and to give teachers the opportunity to feel comfortable with the subject matter, resources, and equipment.

Saturday morning children's programs were conducted at Dingmans Falls Visitor Center, Millbrook Village, and at various other locations throughout the park during the summer in previous years. These programs were gradually reduced during the past seasons, and were not offered at all during some years due to fiduciary issues, human resources cutbacks, and reduction in program attendance.

An additional challenge lies in the fact that it is difficult to get students to park sites, as transportation funding and liability are issues for the schools.

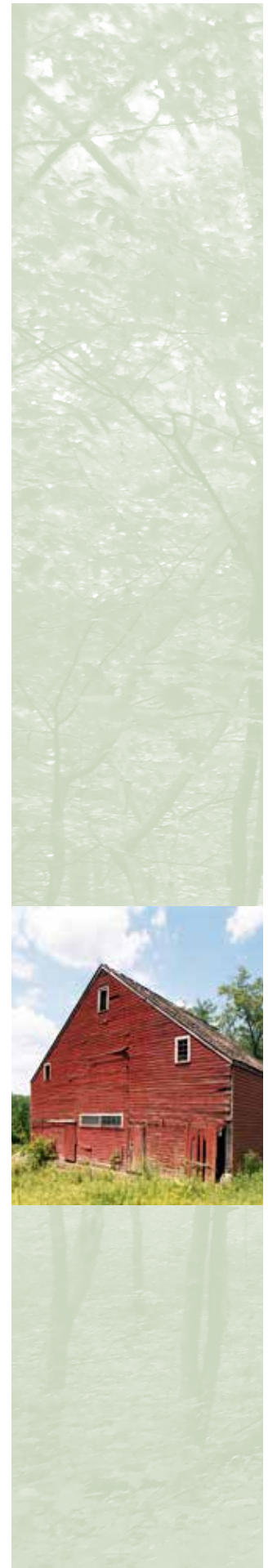
Youth Programs and Services

Three types of Junior Ranger opportunities currently exist in the park: Junior Naturalist, Junior Ranger, and Water Safety. In addition, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail has its own Junior Ranger Program. All of these programs are based from self-guiding booklets, involving participants in cognitive and resource immersion experiences that earn Junior Ranger badges.

Partnerships – Formal

Formal partners are those with which the park has a formal, current, signed agreement. In 2015, these include the following partnerships that contribute to visitor experience, interpretation, and education.

- **Appalachian Mountain Club** provides lodging and food services and recreational-based programs to adult and youth. Additionally, the Youth Opportunities Program division brings conducts a program that enables underserved urban youth to come to the park and participate in recreation-based activities.
- The park's cooperating association, **Eastern National** assists in interpretation by providing park-related sales items for visitors to purchase at park visitor centers. The park provides sales space and park interpretive staff to handle the sales. A portion of the profits from sales are returned to the park to support interpretation.
- **East Stroudsburg University** offers outdoor recreation and interpretive undergraduate degrees and many students complete 30 to 480-hour internships in the park.
- **Friends of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area** sponsors four to six lectures in the park each year and provides volunteer and financial support to other interpretive services, as requested.
- **Millbrook Village Society** provides volunteers and financial support for 1800s-based lifeway skills programs and events in Millbrook Village.
- **Monroe County Transportation Authority** operates a free shuttle service on summer weekends on the Pennsylvania side of the park to popular destinations. In addition to people, the shuttle can also transport a limited number of bikes, canoes, and kayaks.
- **Montague Association for the Restoration of Community History (MARCH)** opens the Foster-Armstrong House and the Nelden-Roberts Stonehouse for tours during the summer and for special events. They also maintain exhibits about local history in these houses.
- **Montague Grange** provides public programs that help visitor understand the purpose of the historic Grange.
- **Paul F. Brandwein Institute** provides guided bird trips and funds the park's bird checklist brochure.
- **Peters Valley School of Craft** offers fine art craft workshops to adults and youth and a self-guided tour on summer weekends of the historic village they occupy.





Throughout the park, historic remnants help tell the cultural story of the Delaware River valley.

- **Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC)** provides day and residential education programs to schools and the public.
- **Pocono Family YMCA** provides a summer youth day camp.
- **Ramirez Solar House** provides tours of the house and information about early sustainability efforts.
- **Walpack Historical Society** opens the First Rosenkrans House and the Van Campen Inn for tours during the summer and for special events.

Other Important Providers of Visitor Services

The park works in informal collaboration with numerous organizations. The following list describes some of the organizations that share in the mission to provide services to park visitors.

- Camp Ken-Etiwa-Pec is operated by the **Student Conservation Association (SCA)** and is currently being renovated and used as a youth trails and historic preservation camp.
- **Pocono Family YMCA** provides a summer youth day camp.
- **Monroe County Transit Authority (MCTA)** partners with the park to provide free transportation throughout the Pennsylvania side of the park. The busses are capable of also transporting a limited number of bikes, kayaks, and canoes.
- Transportation companies (i.e. Monroe County Transit Authority) provide access to the park for numerous visitors. Shuttle service can also serve to transport bikes, canoes, and kayaks.

The Supporting Community

Delaware Water Gap National Recreational River shares the task of interpretation, information dissemination, and education with numerous other entities. The park's division of Interpretation and Education relies heavily on cooperators and partners to achieve its goals, and it may be difficult to monitor the quality of interpretive services which are delivered over such a vast geography by numerous partners.

The park's nine Fundamental Resources and Values are shown below, along with the organizations which may provide the public with information and interpretation.

The Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River and its Tributaries

- Affiliated Tribes
- Appalachian Mountain Club/ Mohican Outdoor Center
- American Canoe Association
- Arts Councils
- Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
- Brandwein Institute
- Brodhead Watershed Association
- Bushkill Falls
- Centenary College
- Chambers of Commerce
- Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Delaware Highlands Conservancy
- Dingmans Campground
- Delaware River Basin Commission
- Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
- Eagle Institute
- Emergency Services
- Eastern National
- East Stroudsburg University
- Friends of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- Historical Societies
- Liveries
- Local Governments (Communities)
- Local residents
- M.A.R.C.H.
- Monroe County Environmental Education Center
- Media
- Millbrook Village Society
- Misc., CUA's, Special Use Permittees, Incidental Business Permittees
- National Geographic
- National Park Service
- NJ Welcome Center
- Outdoors Clubs
- PennDot Welcome Centers
- Pennsylvania Fish and Boat
- Peters Valley School of Craft
- Photography shops
- Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC)
- Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau





Stucky's Pond

- Restaurants
- Riverkeeper Network
- Schools and Camps
- Shawnee Institute
- Shawnee, Fernwood, Resorts
- Skylands Conservancy
- Slippery Rock
- Sojourn
- Sporting goods shops
- Sportsmens' organizations
- State Divisions of Wildlife
- State Parks
- State Parks and Forests
- State Tourism Offices
- Universities/ Colleges
- Upper Delaware Council
- Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River
- US Fish and Wildlife
- USGS (United States Geological Survey)
- YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association)

Changing Settlement and Landscape

- Affiliated Tribes
- Appalachian Mountain Club
- Common Waters
- County planning
- Commercial Use Authorization permittees, Special Use Permittees

- Delaware River Keepers
- Delaware River Basin Commission
- Farmers
- Friends of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- Historic landmark programs
- historic societies
- Lenape Lifeways, Inc.
- Local townships
- Montague Grange
- M.A.R.C.H.
- Millbrook VS
- Monroe County EEC
- National Park Service
- Nurture Nature Foundation
- Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC)
- Peters Valley School of Craft
- Power Companies
- Re-enactors
- Residents
- Resorts (i.e. Shawnee, Fernwood)
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Shawnee Institute
- State Departments of Environmental Protection
- State Parks and Forest
- Volunteers
- Walpack Historical Society

Rich Archeological Heritage

- Affiliated Tribes
- Archeology associations/groups
- Bushkill Falls
- Colleges, universities, schools
- Lenape Lifeways
- Local residents
- M.A.R.C.H.
- New Jersey School of Conservation
- Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) (Pocono Environmental Education Center)
- Powerline/utilities
- State Historic Preservation Officers
- State Highways
- State Museum
- State Parks and Forests



Mosaic of Terrestrial and Wetland Habitats

- Appalachian Mountain Club
- Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge
- Colleges, universities, schools
- Conservation districts (i.e. Monroe)
- Conservation groups
- County Planning agencies
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Eastern National
- Monroe County Environmental Education Center
- National Geographic
- National Park Service
- Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC)
- Resorts
- Specialty clubs (birders, hikers, etc.)
- Sporting goods stores
- Sporting groups
- State historical societies
- State museums
- State parks and forests

Striking Geological Features

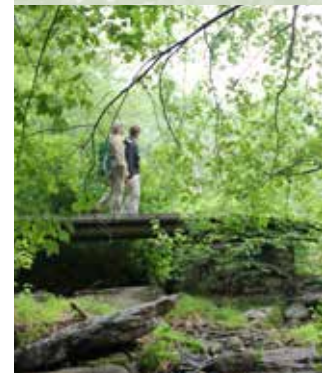
- Appalachian Mountain Club
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail hikers
- Bushkill Falls

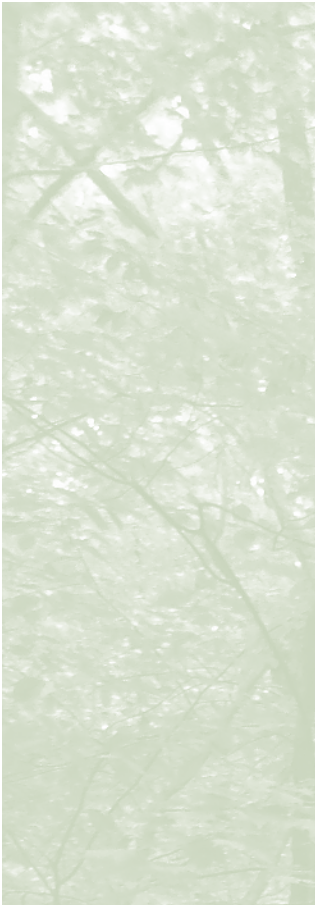


Numerous historic and reproduction buildings help set the scene of a 1800s community at Millbrook Village.



- Commercial Use Authorization permittees, Special Use Permittees (IE Water Gap Trolley)
- Delaware River Basin Commission
- Geological Society of America
- Local, regional, and state geological societies
- National Park Service
- Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC)
- Pretty much anyone who talks about Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area will talk about the Gap (the park's name sake)
- Peters Valley School of Craft
- Residents
- Resorts
- Town of Delaware Water Gap
- Universities, colleges, schools
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)





Sustainable Access to High-Quality Recreational Opportunities

- All recreation providers
- Appalachian Mountain Club
- Commercial Use Authorization permittees, CUA, Special Use Permittees (IE trolley)
- Monroe County Environmental Education Center
- National Park Service
- Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC)
- Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau
- Peters Valley School of Craft
- Resorts
- Sporting goods stores
- Transportation companies (IE Monroe County Transit Authority)
- Welcome centers

Stunning Scenic Resources and Distinct Aesthetic Values

- Appalachian Mountain Club
- Art competitions
- Art counsels
- Art museums
- Businesses which use park images and market Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area merchandise
- Colleges, universities, schools
- Flicker, Google Images, and other internet photo keepers
- Galleries
- GPS (Global Positioning System)
- Commercial Use Authorization permittees, Special Use Permittees (IE Water Gap Trolley)
- Local art clubs
- Media
- Montague Grange
- National Geographic
- National Park Service
- Partner, and other websites
- Photo shops
- Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC)
- Peters Valley School of Craft
- Real estate agents
- Resorts
- Shawnee Institute
- State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs)
- Tourism Travel Guides (such as Fouders, AAA, National Geographic, mobile phone apps, etc.)
- Welcome centers

Landscape-Scale Habitat Connectivity

- Appalachian National Scenic Trail Conservancy
- Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge
- Church groups
- Civic groups
- Common waters
- County conservation districts
- Girl/Boy Scout councils
- Green acres
- Nature conservancies
- National Park Service
- Open space programs
- Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC)
- Pinchot Institute
- Private land owners and trusts
- Real estate associations
- Sportsman and sporting clubs
- State forest, parks, and wildlife
- States and counties
- Trail groups
- Universities/colleges/schools
- Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River
- William Penn Foundation



The Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River offers relatively gentle, flat water for water activities.





Special Events

Special events serve to focus attention on specific resources and programs. In these events, which are usually held annually, park staff works collaboratively with local communities and partners. Following is a list of some of the special events held within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area's boundaries.

Delaware River Sojourn

- The Delaware River Sojourn is an eight-day canoe trip coordinated by a multi-state Steering Committee which celebrates the diversity of the Delaware River through canoeing the Upper, Middle, and Lower sections of the river. The park hosts three days in the Middle Delaware and coordinates educational programming for these three days. A park ranger usually spends one day on the river interpreting river resources and selected local agencies' representatives provide interpretive services on the other two days.

Foster Armstrong House

- Candlelight Tours: Holiday-decorated 1790 historic house open for docent tours by "candlelight."
- Old Fashioned Holiday Weekends: Holiday-decorated historic house open for docent tours, book and craft sales.

Pocono Environmental Education Center

- EcoZone! Afternoon: Explore the new hands-on discovery room.
- Around the Campfire: Enjoy a leisurely hike at dusk that ends at the campfire ring.
- Hibernation Hike: Learn how different plants and animals survive the winter.
- Search for Eagles: Join Jack Padalino, former Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) president.
- Native American Heritage Program.

Rosencrans Museum

- A Walpack Christmas: Walpack Historical Society opens the Rosencrans House/Museum in the holiday spirit.

Peters Valley School of Craft

- Bevans Day is held the first Sunday in May at the Peters Valley School of Craft. The studios are open and special art programs are available for the public.

Millbrook Village

- Millbrook Days: Each fall, the park and Millbrook Village Society and the park sponsor a weekend-long folklife festival called Millbrook Days. During this special event, park rangers and volunteers present an array of 19th century craft demonstrations and other interpretive activities.

- **Hands-on-History:** The park hosts a one- or two-day, intensive demonstration event held in the spring for educational groups..
- **Spring Fling:** The Millbrook Village Society hosts an event that features games and activities that celebrate life in the 1800s, and is generally held on Memorial Day Weekend.
- **Old Fashioned Independence Day:** The Millbrook Village Society hosts an event that celebrates Independence Day as they might have in Millbrook Village during the 1800s.
- **Victorian Christmas:** The park hosts an event where visitors can make paper ornaments reminiscent of ornaments villagers would have made and see the village decked in old-fashioned holiday garb.
- During the evening Christmas Carol program, visitors are invited to sing old-time Christmas hymns in the village church.

Walpack Day and Van Campen Day

- **Van Campen Day:** The Walpack Historical Society hosts an event that celebrates the local cultural history with tours and 18th-century re-enactors.

Publications

The unigrid folder is distributed at locations in and around the park. When in-park visitor contact sites are closed, the unigrid folder is put in a brochure box on building exteriors. Seasonally, lifeguards at the beach areas also distribute these brochures. The river map is distributed at the aforementioned locations and also through local canoe liveries. However, there is no means to distribute either the unigrid folder or the river map at river access points, other than Smithfield, Milford, and Turtle Beaches.

Guide to the Gap is a booklet printed annually that assists visitors in recognizing the primary recreational venues available at the park. Logistical and safety material is provided for each venue.

A two-sided glossy rack card provides Facebook address, Twitter address, and a QR code which links to the park webpage. One side addresses “History at Your Fingertips,” and the other “Nature at Your Fingertips.”

Several park-produced publications are available at many park locations that provide orientation, trip planning, and information about specific topics.



In December, staff and volunteers deck Millbrook Village in traditional 1800s holiday decorations.



Appendix 8 – Audiences

Recreation Visits – (FY2014)

Source: NPS Public Use Statistics: [https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Recreation%20Visitors%20By%20Month%20\(1979%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year\)?Park=DEWA](https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Recreation%20Visitors%20By%20Month%20(1979%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year)?Park=DEWA)

- Annual recreation visit numbers show visitation to Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in a general downward trend in the five years from 2010 to 2014.
- Beginning in 2010 with 5,285,761 visits to 4,041,672 in 2014, this makes the five year average for annual recreation visits about 4,825,657 visits.
- The largest number of visits, comprising more than half of the annual total, are concentrated between May and October.

Type of Programming	% of Visitors Served	Number of Visitors Served
Visitor Centers and Contact Stations	2.85%	115,072
Informal Programs	1.65%	66,581
Formal Programs	.23%	9,101
Education Programs	.16%	6500
Special Events	.06%	2,583
Demonstration and Performing Arts	.05	2,176
Junior Ranger Programs	Too small to be calculated	Too small to be calculated
DEWA Total Visitation in 2014 = 4,041,672		

Visitor Study (2010)

Visitor Studies were conducted for DEWA in 2010 and 1989.

Source: 2010 Visitor Study DEWA Reports: <http://psu.uidaho.edu/c5/vsp/vsp-reports/>

- Full Report: http://psu.uidaho.edu/files/vsp/reports/239_DEWA_rept.pdf
- Executive Summary (listed below): http://psu.uidaho.edu/files/vsp/summaries/239_DEWA_sum.pdf

Visitor Services Study Executive Summary (2010)

This visitor study report profiles a systematic random sample of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (NRA) river visitors during July 31 - August 8, 2010. A total of 1,075 questionnaires was distributed to visitor groups. Of those, 440 questionnaires were returned resulting in a 40.9% response rate. Note that this survey addressed only river users, and does not necessarily reflect all park users.

Group size and type 33% percent of visitor groups consisted of two people and 26% were in groups of six or more. 53% percent of visitor groups consisted of family members.

State or country of residence United States visitors comprised 97% of total visitation during the survey period, with 40% from New Jersey, 31% from Pennsylvania, 19% from New York and smaller proportions from 15 other states and Washington, D.C. International visitors came from 13 countries with 32% from Canada and 24% from the United Kingdom.

Frequency of visits 40% of visitors had visited the park six or more times in their lifetime, and 37% were on their first visit in the past five years.

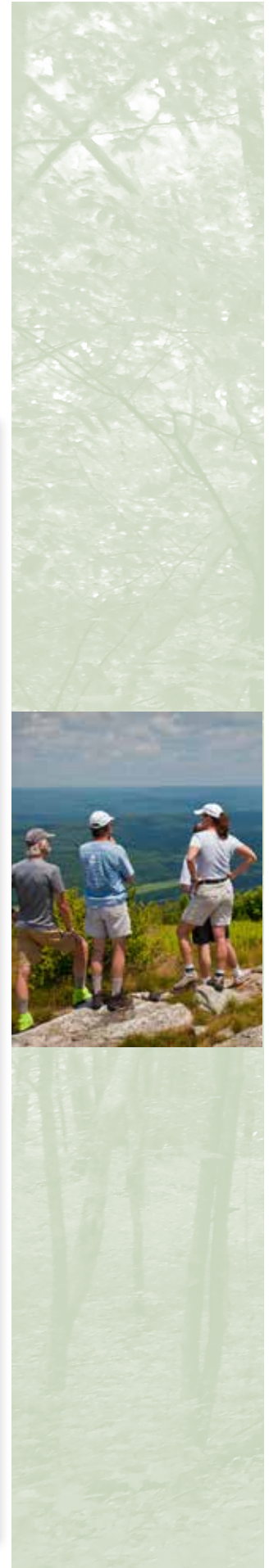
Age 27% of visitors were ages 26-40 years, 27% were ages 41-55 years, 17% were ages 15 years or younger, and 10% were ages 61 years or older.

Awareness of park management: Prior to their visit, 69% of visitor groups knew that Delaware Water Gap NRA is managed by the National Park Service.

Information sources: A majority of visitor groups (77%) obtained information about the park prior to their visit through previous visits (51%) and friends/relatives/word of mouth (46%), and most (84%) received the information they needed. To obtain information for a future visit, 65% of visitor groups would use the Delaware Water Gap NRA website.

Park as destination: For 73% of visitor groups, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area was the primary destination.

Reason for visiting park: 63% of visitor groups ranked “recreation” as their number one reason for visiting Delaware Water Gap NRA.





Services used in nearby communities: 66% of visitor groups sought or obtained support services in nearby communities on this visit, and most (96%) were to obtain needed services. The community most commonly used was Milford, PA (26%).

Overnight stays: 41% of visitor groups stayed overnight away from home in the park or within 20 miles of the park. 39% stayed two nights inside the park, and 33% stayed one night outside the park.

Accommodations used: The most commonly used accommodation inside the park was tent camping in a developed campground (46%), while the most commonly used accommodation outside the park was a lodge, motel, cabin, rented condo/home or B&B (49%).

Length of stay: Of those visitor groups that visited less than one day, 32% spent five to six hours visiting the park. Of those that visited for more than one day, 49% spent two days visiting the park. The average length of stay for all visitor groups was 19.9 hours or 0.8 days.

Locations visited in the park: The most common location visited was Milford Beach (34%), followed by Smithfield Beach (33%) and Dingmans Boat Launch (30%).

Activities on previous visits: 81% of visitor groups have visited previously. The most common activities in which visitor groups participated on previous visits were viewing scenery/river views/waterfalls (64%) and swimming (59%).

Activities on this visit: The most common activities on this visit were swimming (56%) and viewing scenery/river views/waterfalls (52%), and the most important activity was canoeing with private canoes/kayaks (28%).

Personal canoe/kayak/boat trips: 45% of visitor groups took a personal (non-livery) canoe/kayak/boat trip. Of those groups, 56% used canoes and 44% used kayaks.

Information services: The most commonly used information services were the park brochure/map (58%), the canoe and boat launch safety signs (33%), and the park website (33%). 79% of visitor groups rented equipment from a commercial outfitter. Of the 74% of visitor groups that received the pre-trip safety and river orientation briefing, 92% felt it was adequate.

Visitor facilities: The visitor services and facilities most commonly used by visitor groups were the parking lots (67%), followed by the restrooms (other than portables; 59%) and roads (54%).

Protecting park resources and attributes: The highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings of protecting park resources and attributes included clean air (95%), river with outstanding water quality (93%), and clean drinking water (89%).

Appropriateness of management actions: 100% of visitor groups were interested in river camping, and 67% would be willing to pay \$10 river campsite reservation fee. 64% of visitors indicated that power line expansion through Delaware Water Gap NRA and the Middle Delaware Wild and Scenic River would detract from their park experience.

Expenditures: The average visitor group expenditure (inside and outside the park within 20 miles) was \$287. The median group expenditure (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was \$119, and the average total expenditure per person (per capita) was \$86.

Overall quality: Most visitor groups (90%) rated the overall quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities at Delaware Water Gap NRA as “very good” or “good.” Less than 2% of groups rated the overall quality as “very poor”.

US Census for Milford, Pennsylvania and Bushkill, Pennsylvania (2010)

- CensusViewer for Milford, Pennsylvania: <http://censusviewer.com/city/PA/Milford>
- Census Overview for Bushkill, Pennsylvania: <http://www.zip-codes.com/zip-code/18324/zip-code-18324-2010-census.asp>



Interpreters provide guided waterfall walks along the Dingmans Creek Trail on weekends.

Appendix 9 – Servicewide Interpretive Report (SIR) 2014

Funding Sources

Park Interpretive Funds Spent (ONPS Base only)	\$724,181
Servicewide Fee Funds Spent	\$35,231
Reimbursable Fee Funds Spent (16USC 1a-2g)	\$0

Interpretive Staffing for Fiscal Year 2014

Permanent FTE	4.5	Number of Permanent Positions	11.0
Temporary FTE	5.2	Number of Temporary Positions	19.0
Total FTE	9.7	Total Positions	30.0

Personal Services

	Number of Times Service Provided	Number of Different Facilities	Total Work Years	Total Number of Visitor Contacts	Total ONPS Salary & Benefits Only	Total All Other Funding Costs
Visitor Centers/ Contact Stations	N/A	10	5.90	115,072	\$76,119	\$0
Informal Interpretation	N/A	N/A	2.40	66,581	\$45,704	\$0
Formal Interpretation	549	N/A	1.40	9,101	\$4,585	\$0
Demonstrations & Performing Arts	114	N/A	0.03	2,176	\$431	\$0
Junior Ranger Programs	N/A	N/A	0.00	199	\$817	\$0
Special Events	13	N/A	1.50	2,583	\$3,593	\$0
Education Programs	104	N/A	1.00	6,500	0	\$0
Subtotal Personal Services	780	10	12.5	202,212	\$131,249	\$0

Non-Personal Services

	Number of Different Services	Total Work Years	Total Number of Visitor Contacts	Number Distributed	Total ONPS Salary & Benefits Only	Total All Other Funding Costs
Park-Produced Publications	23	0.10	N/A	32,326	\$13,708	\$0
Audio-Visual/Electronic Media	5	0.00	2,310	0.00	\$7,238	\$0
Subtotal Non-Personal Services	28	0.10	2,310	32,326	\$7,238	\$0

N/A = Not Applicable

Outreach Services

	Number of Times Service Provided	Total Work Years	Total Number of Visitor Contacts	Total ONPS Salary & Benefits Only	Total All Other Funding Costs
Community Programs	152	0.20	7,271	\$1,770	\$0
Park Web Site	N/A	0.10	N/A	\$11,112	\$0
Subtotal Outreach Services	152	0.30	7,271	\$12,882	\$0

Program Highlight

This year, the park and visitors benefitted from a larger temporary interpretive staff. With the increase in staffing, we were able to have all visitor centers open during the high-use season and offer more interpretive programs to the public. Staff were able to get out into the park more, contacting visitors along trails and in other high-use areas. Even before social media statistics were added into the total, informal visitor contacts were increased over 82% from 2013. The number of formal programs offered to the public was increased by 36% and the number of youth engaged with the Junior Ranger program increased over 82%. Overall, interpretive services increase about 30% this past year.



Spring is a colorful time in the park.

Appendix 10 – Accessibility

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area will make interpretive products and programming accessible to the greatest extent possible. We shall make every effort to comply with the ADA, (Title III) laws and regulations relative to accommodation and commercial services and with Standards Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards. This includes:

- Modifying interpretive guidelines and procedures, when necessary, to serve and communicate to visitors with disabilities.
- Working with interdisciplinary teams to remove architectural barriers in existing buildings, when feasible.
- Ensuring that newly built or altered facilities are constructed to be to be individuals with disabilities.
- Accommodating visitors with disabilities to allow access to all programs and services.
- Enabling individuals with visual, hearing, and cognitive impairments, as well as those with mobility impairments to receive as close to the same benefits as is feasible to those received by visitors without disabilities.

More about NPS accessibility guidelines can be found here:
<http://www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/>

Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media: <http://www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/accessibilityGuideVersion2.1.pdf>



The Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River protects 40 miles of the free-flowing Delaware River.

Appendix 11 – Strategy for Developing a Park-Wide Sign Plan

Signs are the most frequently used means of communicating with park visitors. Entrance signs offer greetings, welcoming visitors, and reminding them that the place they are entering is part of a system of parks cared for by the National Park Service. Other signs guide visitors as they travel to or within parks, help them understand and appreciate what they encounter, remind them of their role in caring for parks, warn them of potential dangers, identify important landmarks, and help them have a convenient and pleasant stay.

The NPS Sign Program provides design and fabrication guidelines for the full range of park signs. Sign Program standards provide flexibility of form, material, and content, allowing signs to be tailored to different park environments. The goal is for signs to strategically provide critical information to visitors with minimal disruption to the natural landscape. Ideally, sign graphics will follow standard NPS convention while materials are chosen to both withstand the park's climate and fit in with its environment.

The success of park signs is more assured if they are not developed individually, but are the result of a broad, deliberate, and well-documented sign communication strategy. Such a strategy, which can be developed for an entire park or for a selected area within a park, will allow signs to be purchased in a more logical and controlled manner.

Director's Order #52C:

“The purpose... is to establish and implement standards for the planning, design, fabrication, installation, inventory, and maintenance of outdoor signs for national parks. Signs addressed in the standards include motorist guidance signs both in, and leading to, parks; traffic regulatory signs; park and facility identification signs; and other signs relating to safety, wayfinding, resource protection, interpretation, and general park information.”


Like Long Range Interpretive Plans (LRIP) or General Management Plans (GMP), a Park Sign Plan is invaluable in determining how a park will communicate with its visitors and manage its assets. However, unlike a GMP or LRIP — which can be quite broad — a Park Sign Plan includes the detailed specifications needed to implement its strategic recommendations.

As the name suggests, a Sign Plan can address an entire park. Although a park-wide plan is certainly a worthy goal, it is sometimes more practical to focus on a specific area or section with the park. Over time, as budgets and other circumstances allow, the smaller plans can be combined into a single comprehensive plan. In fact, a sign plan can be very helpful — perhaps essential — in obtaining funding to purchase signs.

Having an area or park-wide plan in place allows signs to be ordered in a logical and orderly fashion once funds become available. Signs can be purchased by type (signs of the same kind in a given place), by area (all signs in a given place), or by attrition (as deterioration requires). Finally, in addition to aiding in the purchase of new signs, a sign plan can greatly assist parks in accounting for signs after they are purchased, and in maintaining them over time.

The content of a sign plan varies depending on the extent of the area being considered and the type of signs being planned. Most, however, include the following:





Assessment Report: The planning process typically begins by evaluating and documenting the signs that are currently in place. The assessment also helps to establish its future needs. If, for example, most signs are communicating effectively, but are in poor physical condition, they may simply be replaced with ones that comply with current NPS and Federal Highway Administration standards. If, on the other hand, a park's signs are not communicating with visitors effectively, existing signs may be replaced with newer ones (with more current information) and additional signs may be added or sign clutter may be deleted. Once the assessment report has been reviewed by the park, a sign plan is developed, consisting of the following:

Location Plan: The location of all new signs that are proposed (those that replace existing signs and those that are altogether new) is indicated on a simple map of the park or park area being planned. Each sign designated on the map is associated with a drawing of it by a number code.

Drawings: Every new sign proposed is documented in a drawing. The drawings depict the size and general appearance of the sign, including the precise location of all the text or other graphic content it displays. Notations on the drawing specify how the sign is to be made, including material and color. Once the drawings have been reviewed and approved by the park, they become the principal component of a sign order that guides sign production.





Over 100 miles of trail are maintained throughout the park.





Participants

The following people contributed to this plan.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

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Bill Leonard, Deputy Superintendent

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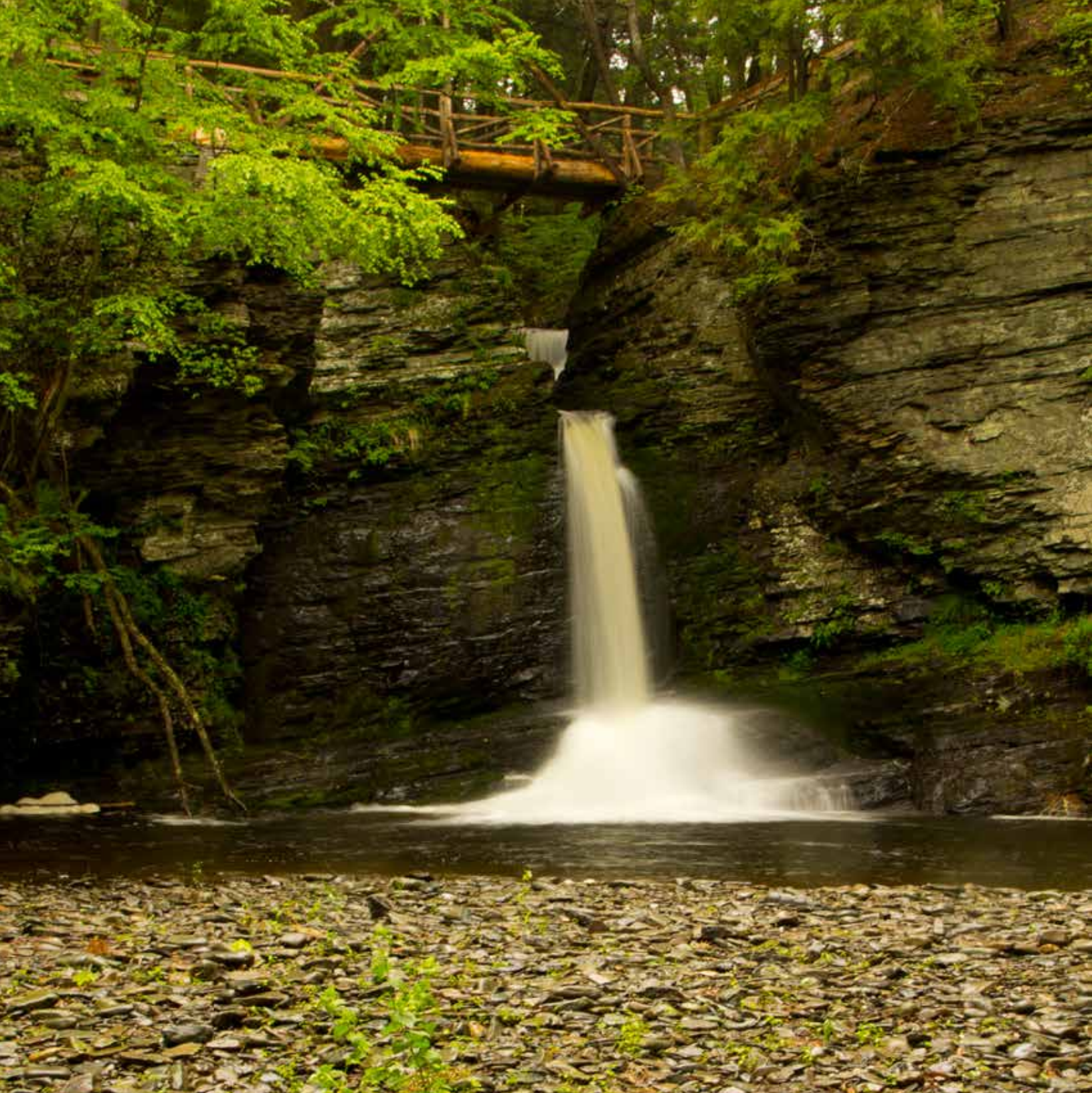
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Harpers Ferry Center
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

